

The Making of Havant



St Faith's Church and West Street circa 1910.

Volume 2 of 5

Havant History Booklet No. 41

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The Roman Catholic Church and Presbtery in West Street.



The wedding of Canon Scott's daughter was a great attraction.

Contents

The Churches of Havant – <i>Ian Watson</i>	5
St Faith's Church	5
The Reverend Canon Samuel Gilbert Scott	11
John Julius Angerstein	13
The Bells of St Faith's Church	13
The Roman Catholic Church – <i>Christine Houseley</i>	16
The Methodists	19
The Reverend George Standing	22
Dissenters	26
Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram	31
Havant's Bricks – Their Time and Place – <i>Ian Watson</i>	37
Local Volunteers and Territorials	49
Law and Order – <i>Pat Dann</i>	61
The Agricultural Uprising	69
Education	71
Private Schools	78

Most of the articles contained in these five *The Making of Havant* booklets are the original work of the Havant Local History Group, which were written in the late 1970s. They have been edited by Ralph Cousins and John Pile and have only been amended where further information has become available or where landmark locations have changed.

Our grateful thanks should be extended to the members of the group for their hard work in putting together this reminder of Havant's past history.

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Overhaul of the bells at St Faith's Church in 1973. This bell weighs $15\frac{1}{2}$ cwt (800kg). From the right Michael Johnson and Morgan Marshall. *Photo The News*.

The Churches of Havant

It was said, in the middle of the 19th century, that all Englishmen were religious but none of the same religion. Certainly Havant gives evidence of the variety of Christian thought of the time. Predictably there existed a strong Anglican community centred on the parish of St Faith's, and similarly there was a Dissenters' congregation using the Independents' Chapel in The Pallant. The Brockhampton mission of the Catholic Church was well established and the Methodists were persevering in their attempts to achieve a place of worship.

St Faith's Church

CJ Longcroft's *Hundred of Bosmere* suggests that Havant first had a church in the 11th century. The dedication was to St Faith, the girl martyr of Aquitaine. In 1285 the Manor of Havant passed into the hands of the Bishop of Winchester. The parish was a 'peculiar' of the bishop and as such as exempt from the ordinary ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

The present church building is well described in Pevsner's *Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*. None of the existing building appears to date from Saxon times, its oldest part, the tower, being a surviving part of the sizeable late 12th-century church. The church has been modified, partially rebuilt or extended many times since. The cost has been borne by local worthies or the parish funds; the work frequently done by local craftsmen.

In the 14th century the rector, Thomas Aylward added an extra storey to the tower. Thomas Aylward was secretary and executor to Bishop William of Wickham whose biography he is reputed to have written; he was buried in St Faith's after his death in 1413 and is commemorated by a fine memorial brass.

From 1567 Henry Cotton of Warblington, a god-son of Queen Elizabeth I, was rector before being appointed Bishop of Salisbury. The earliest registers date from 1653 and contain much evidence of the rise of dissent in the late 17th and 18th centuries. As befits a town with connections with the wool trade, the records of 'burial in woollens' are unusually complete continuing as late as 1748/9. By Acts of 1666 and 1678:

No corpse, except those who shall die of the plague, shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk, hair, gold or silver, or in any stuff or thing other than sheep wool, or put in a coffin lined or faced, other than sheep wool.

An affidavit was required from a relative at burial. The penalty for breaking this law was £5; half to the poor, half to the informer. So frequently was the law broken that the penalty was effectively a tax of £2 10s 0d. (£2.50), the informer usually being a member of the family of the deceased. The Act was repealed in 1814.

On the 24 September 1825, George Robert Mountain was inducted into the living at Havant. Descended from Jacob de Montaigne, a French refugee who settled in East Anglia, he was the son of Jacob Mountain, first Anglican Bishop of Quebec, whose family was largely responsible for carrying the gospel to the furthest parts of Canada in pioneering days. The Reverend Mountain was a busy and energetic man. His first care was to found a church school in Brockhampton Lane, thus, for the first time, bringing education to many of the poorer families in the parish. He had a church complete with parsonage and school built at Redhill, Rowlands Castle. The church was dedicated to St John the Baptist and in June 1840 Redhill was constituted as a separate district. The tower of St Faith's was repaired and the nave re-built due to the Reverend Mountain's efforts. He married Katherine Hinchcliff of Mitcham and she and her family devoted their energy and money to supporting his efforts in the parish. One of Katherine's sisters lived at Woodfield and one at Pallant House – now St Faith's Church House. It was Katherine Mountain who bought houses in North Street and utilised them to provide a parish library, Sunday school rooms and a SPCK (Society for Promoting Knowledge) depot. The premises continued to be used for parish meetings until Church House was bought. Worn out by ill health and overwork George Robert Mountain died in 1846; he had been greatly beloved by all his parishioners who erected the present font in the parish church as a lasting memorial to his labours. His successor was Thomas Goodwin Hatchard, a member of the noted publishing family. He later became Bishop of Mauritius, but soon contracted fever and died the following year

In 1850 the ancient graveyard, after being in use for almost 1,000 years, was closed to further burials. Sir George Staunton gave a new burial ground in New Lane: one acre (0.4 hectare) for the church, a quarter acre (0.1 hectare) for Dissenters. The land was not given to the parish but to the incumbent. The church paid one guinea (£1.05) a year rent, and the burial fees went to the parson. The Church Vestry levied a rate of 3d. (1p) to pay for the cemetery, chapel and wall; the rate ceased in 1858. Also in 1850 the town was lit by gas,

and in 1853 the Vestry resolved that the church be lit by gas; the necessary funds being raised by subscription.

In 1858 Francis Payne Seymour was appointed rector and provides an interesting link with 16th-century history being of the same family as Lady Jane Seymour, mother of Edward VI. This rector's son succeeded to the title of Duke of Somerset and returned to Havant in 1926 to open the new parish hall.

Havant's next Rector, appointed in 1870, was Henry Arnold Olivier of the same family as the noted actor. He remained only four years but performed prodigies in that short time. The fortunes of the church schools were at a very low ebb when he arrived and because of the lack of accommodation there was the imminent prospect of a Board School (an elementary school under the control of a School Board) being erected. Determined to prevent this Olivier called meetings, raised subscriptions, employed architects and obtained estimates; his efforts were dogged by all kinds of unforeseen difficulties, but new schools were built and the arrival of a Board School delayed for a further 20 years. He worked later as a chaplain in Italy and died in Winchester in 1912.

In 1869 the Vestry ceased to levy a rate and funds were collected by the offertory. In 1874 St Faith's tower was found to be unsafe and some rebuilding took place. At the same time the nave of 1832 was replaced.

An organ had provided music in church from as early as 1779 but in the 1832 rebuilding this was replaced by one in the gallery at the west end. In 1866 it was decided to remove the gallery and to place the organ on a platform below. A new organ and chamber were provided at the restoration of 1874. During this rebuilding a corrugated iron building was constructed in Brockhampton Lane for use by the congregation.

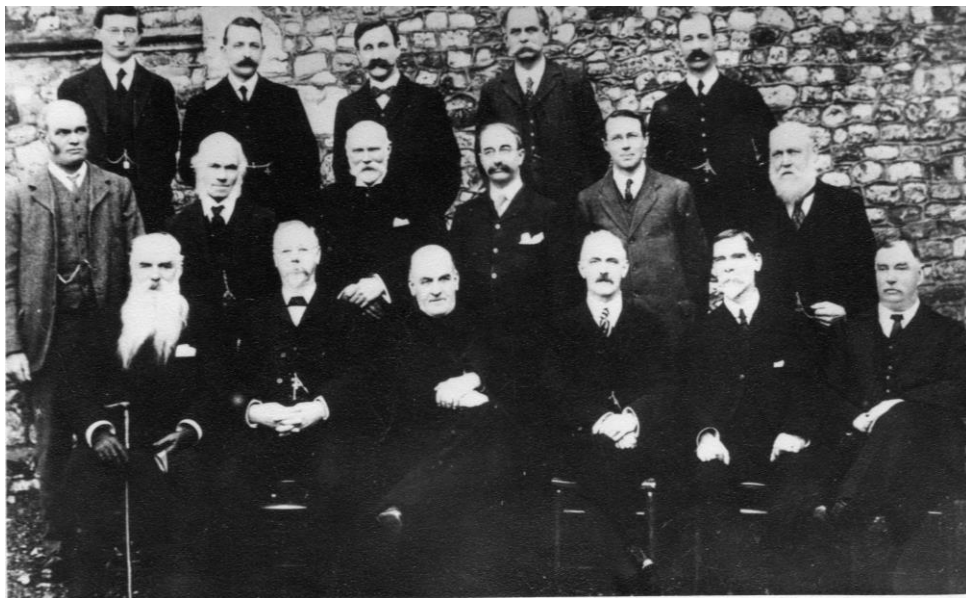
Known as Brockhampton Mission Church, this building held a very special place in the life of the parish throughout its century of use. In the period between the World Wars one and two Saturday afternoon discussion groups and short services for young men took place led by the young curates, Alan and Victor Edwards, who were not related to each other. These services were tremendously popular as was the Young Men's Club led by the local saddler, Mr HJE Shepherd. To this day men talk of those interesting and enthusiastic groups. During its life this church building housed youth organisations, adult meetings, troops during the last war, and latterly, a furniture store and a theatre group. Old inhabitants cherished many happy memories of events held there. It was demolished when the area was redeveloped.



The 'Iron Church' in Brockhampton Lane.



The 29 strong choir of St Faith's with the Reverend Musgrove. Circa 1910.



St Faith's sidesmen circa 1910. Left to right: Pearl Cheal, Booker, Davies, Brown, Smith (verger), King, Keen, ?, Gates, Ellis, Preston Watson, Hooker, Canon Scott, Boxall, ?, Fay.



St Faith's Drum and Fife Band, 1896. Bandmaster Mr N Hann.



St Faith's outing to Wembley, 1924.

One of the most energetic rectors of the 20th century was Harold Nickinson Rodgers, who was appointed in 1917 and worked with great energy for 20 years. In 1927 he became Archdeacon of Portsmouth and did much in organising the work of the new diocese. He only left Havant on being appointed Bishop of Sherborne.

In the Autumn of 1917 it was decided that a new church hall and boys' club had become imperative and a fund was immediately opened, the first £500 being given by Sir Woolmer White Bart. In 1919 Pallant House was bought, renamed St Faith's Church House and fitted up as a boys' club and was immensely popular. By 1926 sufficient funds had been raised to build the church hall in the grounds of Church House and this was opened on 20 April by the Duke of Somerset, as already mentioned. Their former Rector was remembered with affection by older residents of the parish and on his death they placed in his former parish a bishop's chair as his memorial.

In Victorian-times special seats at St Faith's Church were set aside for the inmates of the workhouse. A seat just inside the north door was kept for Havant's midwife, Nurse Anderson. A staunch christian, she rarely missed the beginning of a service but just as rarely managed to stay to the end without being called away on duty.

A modern addition to the church is a very fine Lady Chapel in the south transept, which was given by Captain S Boyd-Richardson RN in memory of his mother. It was designed by Sir Charles Nicholson and was dedicated in 1936 by the Bishop of Salisbury.

An interesting item in the north transept is the colours of the Havant Loyal Volunteers who were raised in 1799 and stood down in 1809. The name of the corps surmounts the royal arms, enclosed in a wreath, half of roses and half of thistles. The design is painted and not embroidered.

Langstone Chapel was built by Henry W Jeans, father of the famous astronomer, as a chapel for his household, Langstone Towers, in the 1860s. It seated 50 and was later dedicated to St Nicholas.

The Reverend Canon Samuel Gilbert Scott, 1847–1916

Services continued well into the war years and fulfilled a very definite need in those difficult days.

The annual outings of the various church organisations were 'red letter days' in the life of the parish (folk worked hard with long hours and had no regular

holidays). On the great day, the hired horse-drawn wagonettes from Mr Wade's livery stables made an early start for a day in the country, perhaps to Blendworth, Clanfield or Horndean. An old resident, who was a chorister in those days, recalls that on the outward journey Canon Scott rode with one group in their wagonette and on the return journey with a different group.

Everyone enjoyed his company, with his great sense of humour and friendliness, and his endless stock of information to impart about the hedgerows and countryside through which they were passing, while the horse drawing the wagonette peacefully 'clip-clopped' upon its way.

Another old resident remembers that, on one of the outings, when riding home in the wagonette, Canon Scott pointed out the windmill on Chalton Down, and one of the choir men sitting beside him remarked: *There used to be two windmills up there, sir, but one had to be taken down as there was not enough wind to drive them both! Oh really* said the Canon, and then, after a short pause said: *You're pulling my leg, Alfred*, and, with a chuckle: *I might have known!* (Alfred was a habitual joker). Such was the mood of those happy expeditions. During the weeks that followed, while on his daily walks, the canon would 'just happen' to look in upon old folks who had not been able to join in the outing and, over a cup of tea, he would talk of all that had taken place on that happy parish expedition. A grand-daughter of one of those elderly couples, a retired gardener and his wife who were Nonconformists, recalls the pleasure that the canon's visit always brought to her grand-parents.

Canon Scott retired towards the end of 1915 after 23 years as Rector of St Faith's, and moved to Upham, near Winchester. A report in the *Portsmouth Evening News* said that:

His retirement is a matter of sincere regret not only to his church at Havant, but to the whole of the inhabitants, who cannot but feel deeply grateful to him for his keen perception in the interests and welfare of that class of inhabitants who have not been able to make a fruitful stand for their own welfare. Indeed, he has been and is eminently the working man's friend. Canon Scott was made the recipient of some handsome study furniture, a cheque, and other articles at a public presentation at Havant town hall, as a token of the love and respect held for him in the district, and as a slight appreciation of the long and valued services, spiritually and socially rendered by him to Havant.

He died in 1916 at Upham at the age of 69 not long after his retirement. A triple-window in the south aisle of the nave of St Faith's Church commemorates the life of this much loved parish priest. The centre window depicts the boy Jesus with His mother, and the two angels in the windows on either side are believed to be reproductions from a famous Italian painting.

John Julius Angerstein, 1735–1823

Few people will have heard of this distinguished man, yet thousands have reason to be grateful for his foresight and public spirit.

Of Russian extraction, he came to England at the age of 15 and after six years became an underwriter at Lloyd's. His talents were early recognised and he was soon an important figure in commercial life. His influence secured the establishment of the present Lloyd's, and he also obtained an Act prohibiting a vessel changing its name. Through his influence the Veterinary College was re-established, and his interest at Lloyd's led to the invention of their lifeboat.

Guided by his friend, Sir Thomas Lawrence, he formed a magnificent collection of pictures, and at his death the bulk of these were purchased to form the nucleus of the National Gallery. His portrait by Lawrence was presented to the gallery by William IV.

By 1817 Angerstein had taken up residence at Leigh House in Leigh Road and began negotiations for the purchase of Leigh Park House. He was concerned to provide accommodation for his family and household in St Faith's Church and a faculty was issued for the erection of a new gallery in the south transept. It was to measure 20 feet (6 metres) from east to west and 12 feet (3½ metres) in breadth, and correspond in height with existing galleries. Entrance was from the south porch by wooden stairs and a window was to be inserted in the gable.

Although a contract had been signed for the purchase of Leigh Park House for £47,350, negotiations broke down and Angerstein took up residence at Woodlands, Blackheath, where he died a few years later

The Bells of St Faith's Church

The art of bell ringing, widely proclaiming the presence of the church in our midst is deeply embedded in English culture. Bells have sounded across the quiet countryside of rural England, penetrating above the din of the industrial areas, to invite people to church, proclaim joyous and historic events and toll for the departed.

From the records available to us we find that the bells of St Faith's Church have been in use for at least five centuries. Records kept in 1552 indicate that five bells were in the tower. There are no records of the next two centuries so we know neither how long these early bells lasted nor when they were first installed. Before the end of the 16th century a great movement in bell ringing began because a revised system of ringing was established. During the Civil War few bells could be recast until peace was restored. During the Commonwealth more business was done than might have been expected but after that there was another decline which lasted about 40 years. It was not until after 1700 that another revival commenced in which St Faith's seemed to have been quick in participating. In 1714 five bells, Nos iii, iv, v, vi & viii, were cast and tuned in the Whitechapel Foundry of Richard Phelps of Avebury, Wiltshire and were installed. In 1723 bell No vii was cast by the same foundry. This last bell was the tenor, and therefore the heaviest, with a strike note of 'F'. It weighed 15½ cwt (800kg) and was 46 inches (1.2m) in diameter. As stated in the following text, it is still in use.

On Saturday 11 January 1806, a muffled peal of bells was rung for two hours to mark the funeral of the nation's hero, Lord Nelson. Nine years later, on 26 November 1815, the bells rang out to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Waterloo.

The six bells of St Faith's Church were added to in 1876, when Sir FW Fitzwygram donated two lighter bells, Nos i and ii, making the ring up to eight, thus completing the octave. These two bells were cast in the foundry of Warner Bros of London. The usual number to a ring is six or eight, although some larger churches or cathedrals may have ten or even 12. A 'peal' is when bells are rung to a certain number of changes, a 'change' being obtained by ringing bells in different rotations, and with a ring of eight bells 40,320 changes can be rung.

After about 180 years of use, two of the original bells of 1714 were recast by Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel Foundry, London, No vii in 1895 and No vi in 1896. It was not until another 35 years later that, in 1930, Nos iv and viii were also recast leaving still two untouched since 1714.

Over the years the bells had become progressively more difficult to manage because of worn parts and fittings, and in 1973 it was found necessary to do a major overhaul. The bells were lowered through the belfry floor into the body of the church, providing an interesting spectacle for the unusually large number of visitors who came to St Faith's to watch the proceedings. All the bells were



The former wooden steps to the belfry.

dismantled and sent to a foundry at Loughborough; here they were overhauled and tuned, the wheels, headstocks and bearings replaced, and the bells' quarter turned so that a different part of the bell was struck. The original 1714 bells were hung with Canon loops, a method of hanging now discontinued. To preserve for posterity an example of this old method of hanging two of the team of ringers shared the extra expense of having special fittings made so that these two bells could be rehung on the Canon loops. The others were hung in the more modern way.

Thus, the bells of St Faith's Church which had rung for so many years, three times before services on Sundays and for practise on Tuesday evenings, were silenced for six months until the mid-summer of 1973. It is believed to be the first time the bells were silenced for so long since the 18th century apart from the war years when they would have been rung only in the event of an invasion.

It is expected that the restoration made in 1973 will enable the bells to continue in use for, at least, another 100 years without requiring any further major attention. The cost of the work was £1,872, which was eased by members of the

ringers assisting in the formidable task of lowering the bells – it will be remembered the tenor weighed 15½ cwt (800kg) – through the belfry floor to the ground and thence to the transport for removal. The cost of the operation was further reduced by one member financing the cost of the crane for loading, and a friend the cost of the lorry transport conveying the bells to and from the foundry.

It requires practise and training to be a bell ringer. It can be dangerous; should even an experienced ringer lose the rope he could be dragged into the air striking the roof of the bell chamber.

We do not, of course, know the names of all the ringers throughout the centuries, although some are written on the walls or doors, or carved in the stonework of the belfry. One can imagine them being the local parchment makers, millers, brewers and shopkeepers of their times. During the 20th century St Faith's has been fortunate in having an enthusiastic and flourishing band of ringers with quite a wide range of ages. The youngest, a girl, was able to ring her first quarter at the age of 12. It is usually invidious to mention names in isolation but there are some which must be recorded. Mr Morgan Marshall started ringing in 1917 at the age of 15, and well remembers climbing the belfry stairs to ring on the joyous occasion of Armistice Day, 11 November 1918. He rang regularly for well over half-a-century and was captain for 45 years. Mr Milford and his three sons too were members of the team of about 20 regular ringers, this number enabling the bells to be rung for weddings and other special events.

Mr Michael Johnson joined the team originally in 1953 and was taught by Mr Morgan Marshall; he became captain in 1971. His spell of ringing was interrupted by his leaving the district for a while. The History Group were indebted both to Mr Morgan Marshall and Mr Michael Johnson for the information on which this article is based.

In such a changing community as ours, changes of personnel in the team are inevitable; no longer do we have an indigenous population of parchment makers, millers, brewers, etc., and new people are always required to maintain the team and so keep the tradition of bell ringing alive in the parish.

The Roman Catholic Church

The present Roman Catholic Church in West Street was built in 1875 to replace the chapel in Brockhampton Lane, which was too small to serve the needs of a

growing community. By this date, the Brockhampton Chapel was also considered to be too far from the town centre, though its secluded position must have been greatly in its favour in the days before the passing of the 1791 Catholic Relief Bill.

Throughout penal times Havant played a vital part in the preservation of the 'Old Faith' in Hampshire. The Elizabethan Settlement, which imposed fines for non-attendance at the services of the established Church of England, was strongly resisted throughout the county. Havant was a centre of this resistance, both because of the position of the town near the sea routes to the continent, and because of the adherence to the catholic faith of many of the local families of gentry. In addition, Havant had been since the Middle Ages one of the manors belonging to the Bishops of Winchester, and as such was outside the direct jurisdiction of the ordinary ecclesiastical authorities. This fact may help to explain why a mission flourished there at a time when there was no catholic church or chapel in either Portsmouth or Chichester. Portsmouth was in Brockhampton Parish until after the passing of the Catholic Relief Bill, when a chapel was built at Portsea.

A Catholic Mission with a resident priest was established at Langstone in about 1711. Before that date the catholics in the area were ministered to by visiting priests, and by the chaplains secretly maintained at some of the great houses in the area. The mission moved to Brockhampton in 1750 or 1751, and a house and chapel were built near Budds Farm by Father David Morgan. These were completed in 1752. The Bulbeck manuscript, written between 1896 and 1899, describes:

A very substantially built house and chapel. The house is in the front, the chapel over the kitchen, scullery, pantry and staircase from the outside leading to it – stables for the use of the congregation.

Existing photographs show that the exterior of the building effectively concealed the chapel. Built at a time when the penal laws against catholics were still in force, the chapel contained a hiding place for the priest in a tiny choir loft. Even when the laws were relaxed, the notice board at the door only said: *Afternoon Prayers on Sundays* (not Mass).

Two priests were based at Brockhampton to minister to catholics over a wide area. Writing to Bishop Douglas in London in 1814, Father Richard Southworth (a descendant of the martyred John Southworth, and parish priest of Brockhampton for 30 years), described his congregation as follows:

The whole, including men, women and children, servants in protestant families and others, from what I can calculate amount to nearly 200 souls; all of whom may be considered as belonging in one way or other to this mission. A good many live at a considerable distance in various directions: and of these several do not frequently come to the chapel; and some few but seldome, owing to greater distance or difficulty.

This is scarcely to be wondered at in a parish which stretched from Chichester to Portsmouth and beyond. For those who did not own horses, it must have been well-nigh impossible to attend chapel regularly. The Bulbeck manuscript mentions an old lady who could remember people coming to take their horses for £5 each from their farmyard to get to mass on Sundays.

The priests, too, were forced to do a great deal of travelling. The Brockhampton Registers record baptisms at Hilsea, Fareham, Portchester and Portsmouth to the west, and Chichester, Fishbourne and West Wittering to the east.

It was during Richard Southworth's time at Brockhampton that the chapel became known as St Joseph's. Father Southworth described in a letter how he had put his flock under the special patronage of St Joseph, as he had received holy orders on the feast day of that saint. The first of the Baptismal Registers kept at the present church in West Street, bears on its title page the inscription: *Liber Baptisatorum in Ecclesia Sancti Josephi Apd. (Brockhampton) Havant*. The volume records baptisms during the period 1855–1956, with no mention of the change of building.

After the move from Brockhampton to West Street, the old chapel was used as a ballroom and a fruit and vegetable storeroom until it was destroyed by fire.

The present church was built for the sum of £3,000, including the presbytery and school. The money was raised by the sale of property in the town and by a subscription started in 1836 by John Bulbeck. A field was bought at Town's End, through which the Hayling Billy Leisure Trail now passes, and plans were drawn up by Mr Scoles. *Very hideous – that would have settled the attempt to build if there had been nothing else to do so!* remarks the writer of the Bulbeck manuscript.

It seems that other people agreed with him as Mr Scoles' plans were never used. When the present church was built on a site in West Street donated by Mr West the architect was Mr J Crawley of Bloomsbury, London. Mr West also gave the window over the altar and built the wall round the cemetery.

The *Hampshire Telegraph's* account of the opening of the church on 15 August 1875, states that: *The great feature in the church is the altar, which is one of the best, if not the best, we have seen in the district.*

The altar was the gift of the same John Bulbeck who started the subscription for the church. Its carved panels represented scenes in the life of Saint Joseph. With the rearrangement of the sanctuary in 1974, the panel depicting the death of St Joseph was moved from the base of the original altar to the front of the new free-standing altar table.

Admission to the church on the occasion of its opening in 1875 was by ticket only, which cost 5s. (25p) each, a great sum in those days. Nevertheless, the church was crowded with people, including many of the poorer members of the faith, to hear mass and a sermon preached by Cardinal Manning.

After the service, the clergy and a large number of the congregation proceeded to the town hall where luncheon was served by Mr J Purnell of the Dolphin Hotel.

The church was consecrated 32 years later on Thursday 18 April 1907. The ceremony, with its three processions round the church for the blessing of the walls and the consecration of the altar stone, began at 9.15am and ended at 12.15pm. In the evening the church was again full of people gathered for a special service of thanksgiving.

By the time the move was made from Brockhampton Lane to West Street, the mission was served by one priest only instead of two. The opening of other catholic churches in the neighbourhood had diminished the area that the Havant priests were expected to serve, although baptisms at Portsmouth are recorded in the registers as late as 1877.

However, with the building of the Leigh Park housing estate, the number of people in the parish became very much greater than at any time in the past. In 1950 a Mass Centre was started in Emsworth, and the priest at St Joseph's was granted the help of a curate in 1952. Leigh Park became a separate parish in 1964. St Joseph's Church celebrated its centenary in 1975, with a special mass said by Bishop Worlock of Portsmouth and watched on closed circuit television in the parish hall by those who could not squeeze into the church.

The Methodists

A Primitive Methodists Chapel was built in 1878 just to the east of the Bedhampton railway crossing, which was considered to be the boundary between Havant and Bedhampton. The building has since been demolished and

houses built on the site. Many well-known Havant families worshipped there including the Standings, the Rutters and the Stallards. The Primitive Methodist Band functioned in Havant for many years taking part in outdoor services in many parades in the town.



The Primitive Methodist Chapel at Bedhampton.

Back in the 1880s a few enthusiasts felt the need for a Wesleyan witness in the town distinct from the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Bedhampton and the Independents' Chapel of Congregationalists in The Pallant. So three men got together, acquired land and built – or had built – a little chapel opposite the Black Dog public house in West Street, and in 1888 opened their Wesleyan place of worship. This building is now a commercial premise. For several years, it is believed, these three trustees remained independent of the local Wesleyan circuit, though no doubt they were visited by preachers from the circuit. Meanwhile the new impressive Congregational Church, which was built in 1891 in North Street, quite outshone the little Wesleyan chapel.

Near the turn of the century monies available in the big 'Wesleyan Twentieth Century Fund' allowed some rearrangement of local affairs, and the West Street chapel became incorporated into the regular circuit. However, both before and after the formation of the Methodist Church in Great Britain in 1932, uniting the former separate traditions of Wesleyan Methodist, Primitive Methodist and

United Methodist Churches, the West Street chapel did not greatly prosper. Some Methodists moving into Havant much preferred the 'real' church – the Congregational Church in North Street – with organ, choir and, usually, a resident minister; whereas the building opposite the Black Dog sometimes



Primitive Methodist Band circa 1913.

shared a minister with a Southsea church. Hence the idea grew of finding a better site and building better premises. This hope was fostered by generosity from Southsea. When the union amongst Methodists had made a set of church premises in Albert Road redundant they were sold and much of the proceeds devoted to the building fund of Havant Methodists. A new site was found in Emsworth Road, on the north side near to the Wheelwrights Arms and by 1939 this had been bought. Crisis week, as we knew it in 1938, followed by war in September 1939, halted all further concern for new premises and when the war was over and building restrictions began to be lifted two new considerations were to modify any scheme for new buildings.

Firstly, war damage money was to be made available; church premises in the City of Portsmouth had been destroyed, and would never be re-built, so Parliament had agreed that compensation for these lost premises might rightly be used to build church premises outside the city where new populations were being housed. Secondly, Havant was at that time extending northwards rather

than eastwards. Furthermore, as hitherto, the Nonconformist population was well catered for in Havant by the Congregational Church. A Havant and Bedhampton Council of Churches had been formed, even during the war, so that Methodists and Congregationalists were no longer competitors, but rather allies.

These considerations, led to the firm decisions by West Street Methodists; (1) that they would sell the existing site, bought before the war; (2) that they would build north of the railway, no longer competing with the long established Congregational Church in central Havant, and (3) that they would accept a sum of money from war damage allocations. When a site on the edge of the already designated new civic offices site came on offer it was at once seized, new premises built and the church in Petersfield Road opened in 1958 just 70 years after the pioneering effort of the three Wesleyans in 1888.

The Reverend George Standing CBE, DSO, MC

Many old Havant residents recall happy memories of the 'Reverend George' as he was affectionately known by old and young alike; his simple faith filled with enthusiasm, the warmth of his smile, and the image of the familiar figure with characteristic stride, head slightly thrust forward, delighting in a word here and there with folk as he passed on his way.

George Standing was born in 1875 in North Street the eldest of four children of George Richard Standing, originally of Steyning in Sussex, and of his wife Emma Jane, née Till, of Havant.

George Richard came to Havant in the 1870s and worked in Joseph Agate's established family grocer's shop in North Street. Later, he took over the ownership of this thriving business, which continued to serve the area through three generations of the Standing family. The large double-fronted house with its distinctive wrought-iron lantern above the entrance, on the east side of the street, was demolished in 1975 during the re-development of North Street. The site is now occupied by the northern end of the Waitrose supermarket.

The Standing family, faithful Primitive Methodists, worshipped at the chapel, built in 1878, near to the Bedhampton level crossing. As a boy, George attended this chapel, and later in life when in Havant. He always acknowledged his indebtedness to his Christian home. He attended the Church of England Boys' School at Brockhampton, under the well-known and respected headmaster Mr Cornelius 'Cornie' Davis.

From an early age and after leaving school, all four of the Standing children – George, William, Kate and Annie – helped in the business, each with a special job. In those days, work was hard, with long hours. Throughout his life, George, with his great sense of humour, and amid many chuckles loved to recount his boyhood memories. His own particular job in the shop was to load the heavy wooden hand-truck with the orders for delivery to customers living at Forestside, then to push the laden truck to the various households there, and on the same day return to Havant with the empty truck, everything safely accomplished. This weekly ‘marathon’, which he enjoyed tremendously, meant a walk of at least five miles or more each way, and was carried out whatever the weather!



Agate's store in North Street. Could that be a young George Standing with the 'heavy truck'?

After training at Hartley College, and his marriage to Kate Ella Fielder, of Purbrook, George entered the ministry of the Primitive Methodist Church and was appointed to serve in the Cotswold Circuit at Chipping Norton, followed by Ryde and Ventnor in the Isle of Wight, Bournemouth, Reading and Aldershot. Here, in 1908, his vocation to the army became apparent, and he quickly adapted

to the life of the garrison; he loved the British soldier, and knew that this was his life.

At the outbreak of WW1 in 1914 he was the first Primitive Methodist Minister to be commissioned in the army, and proceeded almost at once to France, serving there and in Italy with great distinction until the end of the war, when he held the appointment of Assistant Principal Chaplain.

After the war ended, while serving in France, the Reverend George Standing had the honour to serve as one of the officers concerned in the secret procedure for the selection of the Unknown Warrior for interment in Westminster Abbey, and was a member of the escort on the journey of the cortege to England.

Service in Aldershot was followed by his appointment as Assistant Chaplain-General, Western Command, and in 1929 he became Deputy Chaplain-General at the War Office, the highest appointment available to a Free Church Chaplain, and was also honoured by being made an honorary chaplain to His Majesty King George V. For his services in the army he was four times mentioned in dispatches, and was awarded the CBE, DSO, and MC. He also received the Italian decoration of the Order of the Crown of Italy.

Respected, and in his prime somewhat feared in service circles, he fought long and hard for the full recognition of free churchmen in the services. Mary Bray recalled that:

During my service in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1941–45 I began to conduct Services in Methodist Churches in London as I was then a Fully Accredited Preacher of the Methodist Church. I was totally unaware of the fact that this was against Army Council Instructions as far as women were concerned. This caused a great stir in high places at the War Office, and I was requested to submit my sermons in triplicate three weeks before each service for scrutiny. This continued for some time and undoubtedly the War Office had something better to do than to spend their time reading my sermons! The matter was referred to the Chaplain-General who was too busy to deal with it, so he passed it to the Deputy Chaplain-General, the Reverend George Standing, to deal with. I can still hear the roar of laughter which came down the 'phone when I spoke to him about it, when he heard who it was who was under suspicion for speaking without consent and in uniform, for he had encouraged me to preach and had heard me at the little church by the gates at Bedhampton, and he knew my family.

The Reverend George immediately set the wheels of bureaucracy in motion and battered away at the Army Council until the day came when in Army Part II instructions we read – 'Auxiliaries fully accredited by their church to preach may do so without reference to the War Office' – this was then written in the Army 'Bible' known as Army Council Instructions. This was just another of the Reverend George's battles fought and won, this time for the rights of women. For many years after demobilization I would meet the Reverend George and he would slap me on the back, he had his 'tongue in his cheek' as he said 'this young woman made army history'. It was he who 'moved mountains' and made it possible.

The Reverend George was twice called out of retirement to serve the church as secretary of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force Board. The second time in 1937, expected to be a temporary appointment, lasted until after the end of the war. For three years he was on his own, at a time when hundreds of Methodist Chaplains were brought into the services and, due to rationing, he had nearly 600 Free Church canteens under his control. A great ministry of that crowded period, known only to a few, was in his sympathy and constant pastoral concern for the wives of chaplains reported missing, or prisoners of war, or known to have been killed in action. A splendid and loyal colleague he won the affection of chaplains who knew he was their friend.

While serving at the War Office during the severe air raids on London, a flying-bomb demolished his temporary home in London; happily, his wife and sons George and Norman were absent at the time and no-one was injured.

In his retirement to his beloved Havant, he continued to preach in the area, and his happiest moments were as a worshipper, singing Methodist hymns and sharing fully in worship. Almost to the end of his life he visited weekly the Havant War Memorial Hospital, which his parents and family had been largely instrumental in building and to which they gave their lifelong support. He and his wife lived in Grove Road in a delightful corner bungalow with large garden. It is of interest to note that the bungalow with verandas was built to an Australian plan by a local builder, Mr H Treagust, who had recently returned from a visit to Australia. The lay-out of the bungalow is unique: it had been planned with a possible cottage hospital in mind, with large entrance-hall and especially wide doors to the rooms; however, further planning did not materialise and the bungalow remains as a complete and very pleasant family dwelling.

The Reverend George was loved by men and women of all types for his uninhibited friendliness. None of the honours which came upon him altered his relationship with his fellows. During the writing of this article many personal associations with him and his family have been recalled; alas, space limits the sharing of all but a few.

A tiny personal memory of our much loved 'Uncle George':

George Standing was one of the only two people who have ever waved to me across a main street and called loudly 'Happy Easter to you'. Many folk call, shout 'Happy Christmas, but few rightly judge EASTER a really major occasion for Christian joy. George Standing was one such the other was Philip Duke-Baker, former Rector of Havant. For both these men EASTER was rightly a most cheerful Christian occasion, and they both delighted to greet a friend loudly on EASTER DAY.

When on wartime leave, the Reverend George would don a white apron over his service khaki and lend a hand in his brother's shop, then set forth laden with basket to deliver goods to those who needed help with their fetching and carrying. Those brief few days of contact brought much joy to all concerned.

Legend or Truth?

George once told me about his grandfather who was a smuggler and who boasted that the Excise men would never get him. 'And neither did they' said George, because when they burst into the house to arrest him he lay back in his chair and died. And George threw back his head and did his lovely warm laugh!

The Reverend George died in Havant War Memorial Hospital on 6 January 1966, in the 91st-year of his age and the 67th-year of his ministry. His wife, Kate Ella, died in 1961, in the 87th-year of her age.

A 'Standing Ward' in Havant War Memorial Hospital commemorated the Standing families.

Dissenters

Non-conformity was firmly established in Havant in the 17th century. The Reverend John Harrison, who had been rector of Warblington during the Civil War, was licensed to preach as a Presbyterian in the house of Mr Thomas Bayly of Havant in 1672. One early reference was made in *Freedom after Ejection* by A Gooden, *Mr Nicolleys (Nicholas) of Havant hath a small maintenance*, (He was



The former Dissenters' Meeting House, No 10 The Pallant. Grade II listed.

voted £5 in 1696 by the Congregational Fund). In 1693 Charles Nicholas was referred to in the parish register as a *Preacher at ye Conventicle*. It was stated soon after that Havant wanted a minister and was able to raise £50 to £60 per annum.

After the Act of Toleration of 1689 application could be made to the Bishop of Winchester for premises to be licensed as Protestant Dissenting Houses. The early Dissenters met in a warehouse in Pallant Lane, the Meeting House certificate bearing the names of Mrs Mary Slindall and Nathan Kendrick (1717) and next, undated, Thomas Molard. Among entries in the exhibit books in Winchester is the following application: *14th October 1729. A building (newly erected) in Pallant Lane on the Northside of East Street, for Dissenters. William Cook, Schoolmaster*. This building had been built on the site of the warehouse in 1718, red and grey chequered brick with a blank Venetian window in moulded brickwork over the frontage. The inscription over the doors, which has been painted over, ran as follows: *Ædes Divino cultui vigen. sac. liber. Sub imperiuo Georgii Augusti Mdccxvii* (Jennifer Moore-Blunt PhD (Cantab) suggests a possible translation for this as: House consecrated for divine worship flourishing with free rites (?) in the reign of George Augustus. 1718.)

The Minister's house was on the other side of The Pallant.

In 1935, when the chapel building was being renovated for use as a store for electricity maintenance staff, a lead-lined coffin containing the skeleton of a boy of about 14-years-old, was found under the floor near the main entrance. The bones had become ebony black in the course of time. There were no visible details on the coffin, and enquiries and records failed to produce any clue as to the boy's identity. After a coroner's inquest with an open verdict, the body was interred in the Havant cemetery. It was thought that the boy might have been related to one of the pastors of the chapel. Other notes in the Exhibit Books:

4th July 1774 – Meeting House for Dissenters. William Cook.

7th July 1774 – A petition to certify a building in the possession of Mr William Cook in Havant. For the congregation of Protestant Dissenters under the denomination of Independents.

Signed by William White, William Moody, Henry Curlsby (or Eversly), John Limberow, William Sainsbury.

22nd July 1816 – A house occupied by George Arter. For a congregation of Protestants applied for by William Scamp.

The Reverend William Scamp was pastor at the Independents' Chapel from 1803 to 1846. Born of humble parentage in Devonport in 1774, he became a journeyman cabinet maker in Gosport. He was converted under the ministry of Dr Bogue and in 1803 came to Havant where the cause had much declined. He was so successful that in 1803 he was ordained. During his pastorate 387 members were added and new chapels built at Hayling and Emsworth. To cope with the expanding membership the enlarging of the premises in The Pallant was started in 1817. Three months later, after an expenditure of £800, the chapel was re-opened, the principle speaker being Dr Bogue; Mr Scamp closed the delightful privileges of the day.

23rd and 24th November 1824 – Application for a house in Langstone by William Scamp (Minister) and Thomas Dix.

2nd April 1828 – Application for a schoolroom in West Street, Havant by Osman Heath.

Following the formation in 1808 of the British and Foreign Schools Society, a charitable trust was formed known as the British School for the education of the labouring and manufacturing classes of every religious persuasion. The British School was in the Market Lane Hall, which was built 1835; the pupils paid 1d. (½p)-per-week. By 1873 the Havant Congregational Church, which must have been the church in The Pallant, supported a charity described as: *A charity for a Sunday school*. This is what a member recorded of his boyhood days:

Sunday morning session 9am to 10.45am. A superintendent with ten or 12 teachers and children of all age groups filled the hall for assembly and lessons. They left the hall at 10.45am and processed, via Prince George Street, to The Pallant Chapel. There children would either join their parents or sit in the gallery. Service commenced at 11am, hymns, prayers, a talk by the pastor to the children, and a long discourse for the adults finishing at about 12.45pm. Afternoon Sunday school was from 2pm to 3.45pm.

In 1890 the new Congregational Church (now the United Reformed Church) was built in North Street. Behind the church, with an entrance in Elm Lane, were built the lecture hall and large schoolroom. The church and schoolroom were paid for partly with the proceeds of the old chapel in The Pallant. The rest of the money was raised by the untiring efforts of the young Minister, the Reverend RJ

Wells, who appealed for donations from friends and well-wishers so that the church could open free from debt.

The inscription on the foundation stone in the wall in the left hand side of the front porch of the church reads:

This stone was laid by
TM KINGDON ESQ., J.P.
of BASINGSTOKE.
Chairman of Hants. Congregational Union
on Wednesday, 16 July 1890.

The inscription on the foundation stone of the lecture hall reads:

This stone was laid by
W.B. RANDALL of SOUTHAMPTON.

The architect for the church, which was described as 'in Gothic style', was Mr AE Stallard and the builder was Mr TP Hall of Southsea. The present pulpit first saw service in St Faith's Church. It was enlarged and installed.

About 1900 the Market Lane Hall came back into the possession of the Congregational Church again and was used as a working-men's club under the leadership of Mr Fred. Leng. This was during the Reverend RJ Wells ministry. Billiard tables, magazines and papers were provided, as well as draughts and chess.

During WW1 the hall was a soldiers' canteen. It has also been used by the primary and beginners department of the Congregational Sunday School in the charge of Miss Bessie Simmons, with a group of teenagers to help with the four to eight-year-olds. During the week it was used by girl guides, brownies and young people's fellowship social activities.

The Sainsbury family deserve notice for their unfailing support for many years. In 1785 William Sainsbury of Leigh Farm made his house *open for the worship of God and the preaching of the Gospel*. His daughter Catherine was responsible for the founding of the chapel in Rowlands Castle and 13 of his children and grandchildren became ministers or wives of ministers.

In 1891 the chapel in The Pallant was sold to Mr Fred. Leng who used it as a furniture repository until 1935 when it was sold to the Portsmouth Electricity Department.

In 1972 the Congregational Church joined with the Presbyterian Church to become the United Reformed Church. As such, its large and enthusiastic membership is a vital force in the area.

Read also Havant History Booklets 11 and 14.

Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Fitzwygram and his Family

We are told on good authority that only two or three English families can trace their descent back to days before the Norman Conquest, and few can trace with certainty their origins to the early Middle Ages. It should not surprise us, therefore, to learn that the title borne by Sir Frederick was not of great antiquity, being first granted in 1805 to Mr Robert Wigram.

He was born in 1743, the son of John Wigram of Bristol and his wife Mary Clifford of County Wexford. Robert Wigram seems to have started business keeping a drug shop in London. He acquired shares in the Honourable East India Company and became a shipbuilder in the famed Blackwall Dock at Deptford. Here he evidently enjoyed great success and by 1802 was Member of Parliament for Fowey. In 1772 he had married Catherine Brodhurst, by whom he had several children. He married secondly in 1787, Eleanor Watts, and is said to have had 20 children by both marriages, several of whom achieved distinction both in the services and in the church.

On his death in 1830 he was succeeded by his eldest son, also named Robert, who had married in 1812 Delina, the daughter of Sir John Hayes Bart. Sir Robert lived at Walthamstow House, Essex and was a fellow of the Royal Society. In 1832 – for reasons known only to himself – he changed the family name to Fitzwygram, but it appears that other branches of the family retained the original name.

Sir Robert and his wife had five children, the eldest (another Robert) being born in 1813, Selina Frances in 1815, Frederick Wellington John in 1823, John Fitzroy in 1827 and Loftus in 1832. Robert succeeded to the title on his father's death in 1843; Selina Frances died unmarried in 1890, and is commemorated in the north window of the chancel in St Faith's Church; John Fitzroy took holy orders and for many years was Vicar of New Hampton, Middlesex; the youngest son, Loftus, became a distinguished barrister.

The third Sir Robert succeeded to the title in 1843, and as he did not marry the title passed on his death in 1873 to his brother Frederick Wellington John.

The new baronet had been given an auspicious start in life, the sponsors at his baptism being the Duke of York and Albany and the great Duke of Wellington. With such godparents, and with the second name of Wellington, he was clearly already destined for a military career, and after being educated at Eton he joined the 6th Dragoons in 1843. Ten years later, England came into conflict with Russia in the Crimean War, and Sir Frederick was involved in both the battle of Tchernaya and the prolonged battle for Sebastopol, for which he received the Crimean medal and clasp.

In 1860 he exchanged into the 15th Hussars, and was stationed for some years in India. It was during this period that he was strongly impressed by the need for summer quarters for the wives and children of the soldiers, and gave £10,000 towards providing dwellings for their occupation.

In 1879 he was appointed Inspector General of Cavalry, and held this appointment until his retirement from the army as lieutenant general in 1884. Two years earlier he had married Angela Frances Mary, daughter of Thomas Nugent Vaughan and his wife Frances Mary, Viscountess Forbes.

On retiring from the army Sir Frederick purchased the Leigh Park estate and immediately took an active part in a variety of local affairs. He represented the local Division in Parliament from 1884 until his retirement in 1900.

One of his first concerns in purchasing Leigh Park was the building of new cottages for estate workers, and these still stand in the Petersfield Road. The cottages were known by the rich plum colour paint on the doors. Sir Frederick and Lady Fitzwygram used to drive to Havant in a carriage and pair with a liveried coachman. During longer visits to the town the barouche and horses would be left in charge of the ostler at the now demolished Star Hotel in North Street near to the railway station. On the way home, Sir Frederick and Lady Fitzwygram would sometimes call on their tenants, often accompanied by their children, Master Freddie, and Angela who was known as Miss Kitty or Kitten.

Sometimes Lady Fitzwygram would visit a cottager (arriving in an open landau) to bring skeins of wool, patterns and measurements for the hand-knitted socks worn by Sir Frederick and his son. A few weeks later, her ladyship would call again to see the finished work and suitably reward the knitter.

Sir Frederick was most generous in allowing public access to his gardens and grounds which were thrown open every summer for charitable causes. The annual flower show (for which he always provided the marquee and facilities for



A Sunday school outing.



Skating on the lake.

THE COUNTY OF HANTS ELECTION 1886.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SOUTHERN OR FAREHAM
DIVISION OF THE COUNTY OF HANTS.

Gentlemen,

The Prime Minister having advised Her Majesty to dissolve the Parliament very recently elected, I have the honour to solicit a renewal of the confidence which you so kindly placed in me last December.

The one great and all important question now before the Country is the maintenance of the Unity of the Empire. All other considerations must, for the time being, be subordinated to this Great Question.

I confidently ask your assistance in resisting the attempt of Her Majesty's Ministers to sever the Legislative Union existing between Great Britain and Ireland.

I intend to avail myself of an early opportunity of addressing you on this subject, and explaining more fully my views.

Briefly however I may say I am prepared to support any well considered measure having for its object the extension of Local Government both in Great Britain and Ireland, but I refuse to hand over the law abiding population of Ireland to a Home Rule Government controlled by Mr. Parnell and the National League, whose ultimate object is the separation of Ireland from the United Kingdom.

My opinions, on general Political questions are unchanged. I can only express my regret that measures of useful reform, especially those which concern Local Government, the relief of the Agricultural Interest from unjust burdens and the still existing depression of Trade have been all utterly neglected by Her Majesty's Government.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. W. FITZWYGRAM.

LEIGH PARK, HANTS,
15TH JUNE, 1886.

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY SUTTON & SONS FAREHAM

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram's 1886 election address.

refreshments etc.) was immensely popular. Prizes took the form of steel engravings and certificates of merit. Winners in the vegetable and flower class received boxes of seeds donated by well-known seedsmen. Sir Frederick encouraged his tenants to have attractive front gardens and window boxes by offering prizes to those who entered the competition at showtime.

A well-kept cricket pitch, enclosed by post and chain fencing, was laid out north-west of the Leigh Road, now Petersfield Road, and Stockheath and Martins Roads cross roads, where a swing gate gave access. Sir Frederick had a good cricket team composed of friends and employees. There was a large pavilion overlooking the pitch, with dressing room, kitchen, trestle tables and forms to seat a considerable number of people. Tea was served there for Sunday School outings from Portsmouth. The visitors walked up from Havant railway station to enjoy games and competitions in the park, before returning home, often with bunches of flowers from the gardens of the tenants' cottages.

In winter, when Leigh Park Lake froze, the townspeople of Havant were invited to use it for skating. The ice was tested three times before the invitation was conveyed to Havant. Then everyone took advantage of the offer, skaters and non-skaters alike. Even bath chairs were pushed there for the occupants to enjoy the fun.

Sir Frederick was always ready to support every worthy cause and to relieve those in misfortune, and rendered generous help to many who suffered through the failure of the Portsea Island Building Society.

Sir Frederick was equally generous in giving his time to public duties. He was deputy lieutenant of the county, an Alderman of Portsmouth City Council, chairman of Havant Magistrates and a member of numerous other public bodies. He had also been a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and was president for 1876–1878. In Portsmouth he was a member of the Literary Society and a co-opted governor of Portsmouth Grammar School, to which he was a generous benefactor.

After so many years in the army it was natural for Sir Frederick to have firm views on discipline. Tales were told of his inspecting the drive at Leigh Park after the edges had been trimmed by the gardeners, and any deviation from the straight line incensed him as much as an ill-paraded squadron of cavalry.

On his retirement from parliament he was presented with the freedom of the Borough by Portsmouth Town Council; the Hampshire Friendly Society gave him a silver salad bowl, and a presentation of a silver salver was made jointly by

Havant residents and the 2nd Volunteer Company of the Hampshire Regiment. Lady Fitzwygram was given a gold bracelet set with turquoise and pearls.

Sir Frederick died in 1904 and was buried in the family grave at Redhill, the large funeral procession leaving the grounds of Leigh Park House at the north lodge. Many military representatives attended, and the perimeter of the graveyard was lined by the Havant Company of Volunteers. Sir Frederick is commemorated in St Faith's Church by the fine west window erected by his family.

On the death of Sir Frederick the title passed to his only son, Frederick Loftus Francis. Educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, he entered the army, and on the outbreak of WW1 and went to France with his regiment, the Scots Guards. Wounded in the early fighting he was sent home to recuperate before returning to France. In 1915 he became a prisoner of war at Festubert and only returned home after the armistice.

His early interests were quickly resumed, particularly with the Leigh Park Beagles. People in Havant still remember seeing the Beagles streaming down the main street on the way to a meet, with the whipper-in, Mr Theobald, in pink coat and Fitzwygram livery. Another of Sir Frederick's interests was the Havant Cricket Club whose matches were played on the estate cricket field. He also continued his father's practice of allowing local organisations to hold their functions in his attractive park.

In the spring of 1920 he was taken ill with influenza, but complications developed and he entered Alexandra Hospital, London, where he died on 5 May. He was buried in the family grave, and later a stained glass window to his memory was placed in the south transept of St Faith's Church by his family. His sister, Angela, did not marry. She became an active member of the Havant British Red Cross Society (Hants 22), and served as a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse at the Langstone Auxiliary Military Hospital during WW1.

As Sir Frederick, too, had not married, and was an only son, the title passed to a cousin and direct descendant of that branch of the family which retained the original name of Wigram.

Havant's Bricks – their Time and Place

Much of the history of our small towns can still be seen in the houses, shops and street patterns. The materials of the buildings and their styles to some extent date them and tell us a little of how the town used to look. For centuries the

tradition was to alter buildings. This is being supplanted by knock down and rebuild, but there are still to be seen in Havant many reminders of the two centuries previous to ours. The work of past craftsman is there to be admired, not in impressive buildings, but in a great variety of domestic architecture.

Havant's main materials are wood, chalk, flint bricks and stone. The cheapest were ready on the ground, chalk and flint. The very hard impermeable chalk used for building is termed 'clunch', and has been used for boundary walls, often with flint or brick to protect it from the weather. Flints were collected from the fields mainly by country women, the men helping when farm work was in short supply. They were paid for by the basket. Knapping flints requires skill and a lot of labour. Bricks were made in several places in Havant, there being a number of suitable clay deposits north of the Portsmouth to Chichester Road. High quality bricks were brought from Fareham and Bursledon, the famous Fareham reds. Similarly our handsome pre-1850 handmade chimney pots originated there. An uncommon source of building stone was the dismantling of Warblington Castle in 1642. This was a pale yellow brown limestone from Caen in Normandy or Quarr in the Isle of Wight, and can be seen in many buildings in Warblington and Havant.

17th-century Havant was mainly a sprinkling of houses along West Street, down Brockhampton Lane and South Street.

South Street, having been the main road, track or path to Langstone and Hayling for many centuries, is now a cul-de-sac with a variety of building styles. On the east side Nos 11 and 13 are red brick 18th-century cottages with shop fronts added. Their parapet is an attractive detail. The next building, No. 15, is a good example of the use of grey headers, a style dating from the second half of the 18th century. Turning up the road to the Twittens, the filled in windows of the wall of the building on the left hand side show clearly that it was once a malt house. South of No. 17, the former Speed the Plough, Ranscomb Villas, Nos 19 and 21, have a touch of Victorian gentility. Here curates would find accommodation. No. 25, formerly Conway's Livery Stables, is said to have parts of the rear stables dating back to the days of James I. Almost at the motorway, Newnham House, No. 61, demonstrates how the attractive proportions of a Georgian house can be ruined by the addition of an extra storey.

On the west side at the lower end is Hall Place, home of the Longcrofts. The present renovated building of 1796 replaced an earlier one built of Caen stone from Warblington Castle. It is built of yellow Dorset brick and has a most

attractive porch and doorway. Inside was a geometric staircase. Nearer the church is No. 18a, Hall Place Cottage, of the 17th century. The wall adjoining the street was rebuilt in the 19th century, and, on the north-east corner the small Tudor bricks are an engaging contrast with the standard Victorian brick. Tudor bricks were about 2 inches (5cm) thick, increasing gradually to about 2½ inches (7cm) in 1784 when the Brick Tax was imposed. Next is a pair of cottages dated 1881. Further towards the church is the much altered malt house behind No. 10. From the yard at the side can be seen a superb old ship's timber forming the plate, the wood on the top of the wall which carries the roof trusses. Clearly the wall has been built to fit the timber, not the usual way. Again the filled in windows show its former function as a malthouse. The rear wall of the yard, random undressed flints, has a date plaque, 'James Moore 1836', owner of the yard and one of a family of stonemasons. The cottages from here to the Old House at Home show attractive use of grey headers while the Old House at Home itself is a first class example of a wood frame building.



The ornamental drain pipes of Nos 4 and 6 East Street. Grade II listed.

By Queen Victoria's day, East Street had grown as far as the former post office and was mainly good quality residential. Its south side starts with a splendid three storey Victorian shop. The Italianate detail, the semi-circular arches of the ground floor windows, the flattened canopied arches of the first floor windows,

the almost flat arches of the second floor windows are reminiscent of the Palazzo Farnese. It was earlier Bulbecks the drapers. An attractive detail of the next pair of shops, No. 4 formerly being the post office, is the spirally decorated pillars with ornamental cast iron heads that are actually drainpipes. Next, No. 10 carries the date 1715; the great fire of Havant stopped here. Then a plain door, No. 14a, gives access to a Twitten, the east wall of which carries the date 1672 cut into a large stone set in a variety of bricks, perhaps gathered after the great fire. The significance of the date is not known.

East Street continues with a number of Georgian buildings of quality brick work, red brick or grey headers with red brick dressings. Interesting details include the wing on Magnolia House, No. 27, with its rubbed and gauged brick arches over the windows, the use of quarter bricks to give a small scale to the brickwork and its pediment. It is interesting to note that the window frames of the extension are set back from, and not flush with, the face of the brickwork as in the original building. In 1708 wooden door and window frames were forbidden unless set back four inches (10cm). Wooden beams were no longer allowed to serve as window lintels, and were replaced by the brick arch. Contrast is provided by the stucco of 19th-century No. 17, with its attractive cornice and parapet, and the building cornering Town Hall Road. Mention must be made of the excellent curved wall of No. 33 East Street with its correctly headers only, a delight to the eye when splashed with sunlight.

The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, which was originally the town hall and later the Havant Civic Town Hall, is a good example of Victorian polychromy. Red bricks, yellow stone dressings and black string courses are very much the style of its time, 1870. Another interesting detail is the brick tumbling on the chimney stacks. The conjoint Havant Museum shows in its flint work alterations and additions. The lower levels are excellent examples of knapped and coursed flint with brick corners. The mortar between the flints has tiny flakes of flint, gallets, set in to increase its strength and shed rainwater.

Opposite on the corner the old post office has, above its original entrance, a fairly rare 1936 cypher of King Edward VIII. In Beechworth Road, a neat pre-Victorian flint work cottage has been spoiled by a later over-size brick chimney. Across the road to the west can be seen two, now converted, vast Edwardian Villas, Nos 35 and 37. Borne aloft are two magnificent extrovert brick chimney stacks, (replicas of the originals), each with a plethora of pots. In Edwardian days many smoking chimneys were a sign of a prosperous house-owner.

North Street has seen many changes since Queen Victoria came to the throne. Then a country lane to Rowlands Castle, with a few public houses, cottages and a market place, it grew with the arrival of the railway station. The number of dwellings increased, some to be converted later into shops. From the end of the 19th century until World War Two North Street had a wide range of services which included two grocers, a fishmonger, two butchers, a greengrocer a sweetshop, a music shop, a leather and harness shop, a telephone exchange, a photographer and instrument maker, a temperance hotel, a coach builder, a market for cattle and poultry and an off-licence, as well as six public houses. The rebuilding of the train station across the level crossing and the building of Park Road North and its bridge in 1936, cut traffic in, and the importance of, North Street. Little brickwork remains to record these changes.



The White Hart circa 1910. Grade II listed.

At the south end the widening of North Street in 1889 is inadvertently celebrated by the White Hart. Excellent details include the terracotta panels and the cut brick moulding of the angled corner. On the west side a pair of cottages, Nos 7 and 9, bear the date 1894 and the initials of Samuel Clarke, 'S.C.', who owned a considerable area in Havant at the time. The cottages have a neat

dentilled cornice. The Victorians gave quite minor buildings quality treatment. Adjacent is the one time George Inn, No. 11, an earlier red brick building with a charmingly decorated parapet in contrasting yellow brick. Early 19th century, it was at one time a coaching post. The United Reformed Church has walls faced with Kentish random ragstone, and Bath stone has been used for the recessive doorway and window dressings; until 1890 the site was a stonemason's yard. The former Perseverance public house has an excellent Victorian *faience* glazed tile front. Towards the station the now demolished Star public house had grey headers and red dressings, suggesting late 18th century. Its predecessor was burned down in 1758. Its north wall had lower courses of flint, perhaps part of the earlier building. Its garage, ex stables, was floored with red-brown Doulton paviments, designed to resist the wear of horses' hooves and iron rimmed carriage wheels. On the east side the Six Bells is a converted Victorian dwelling with an attractive strip of Rowlands Castle moulded tiles below the first floor windows.

Nos 24 and 26, now one building, are the oldest buildings in North Street and No. 26 still carries its Fareham chimney pots.

A new development, a multiple retail outlet complex, has happily been built in brick and has one detail of interest. The expanse of brick, stretchers only, has been broken by flint panels. The flints were obtained from the two cottages which stood in Prince George Street, these being part of a farm of many years earlier.

On the north side of The Pallant No. 11 is early 1800s with the typical grey headers, red brick window dressings and quoins, but also boasts a rare feature, bow windows both up and downstairs. Other details include a modillioned cornice and a most attractive doorway. Neighbouring buildings have the attractive variety of the days before town planning. St Faith's Church House, part 17th century, part 18th century, and part 19th century, has a fire mark of the Sun Insurance Co. under its attractive porch. Part of the walls have clunch footings.

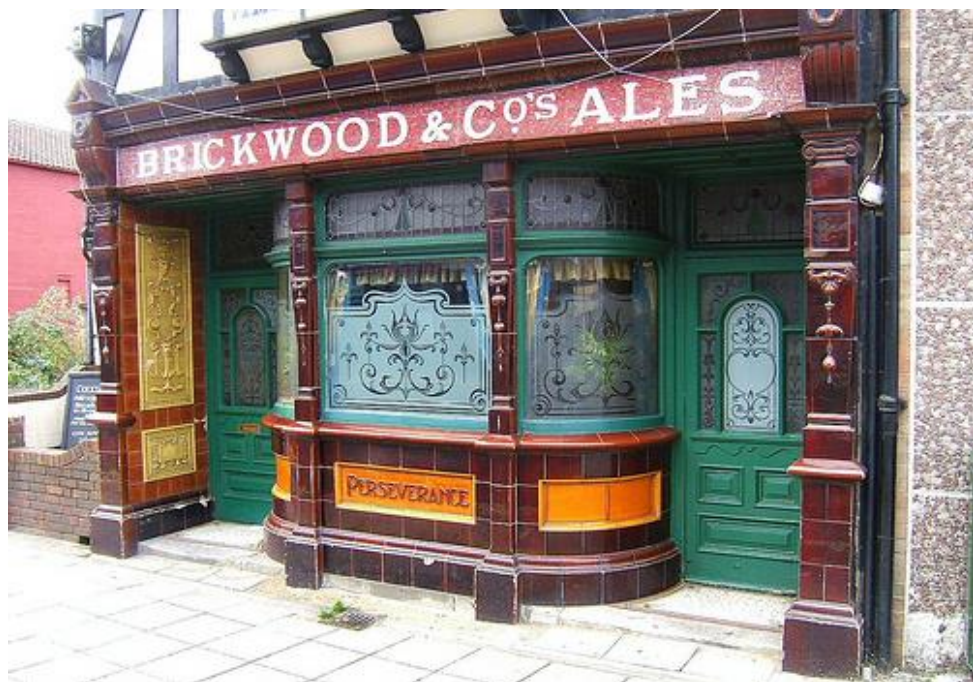
The stylish No. 1 of Prince George Street is an attractive two part early 19th-century house in grey and red. It has a front garden wall in rat trap walling.

These garden walls are a feature of Havant, rarely seen elsewhere. They are built 9 inches (23cm) thick, with a three inch (8cm) cavity and two skins of three inch (8cm) brickwork, the bricks being laid on edge (rat trap bond). Fairfield Terrace a few yards (metres) away is Havant's most unique building. Of the six houses, the centre pair are cement rendered with a trim of 'burrs'. These are flanked each side with a house of random white flints, the outer pair being

coursed grey stone of various thicknesses. The house at the northern end sports a terracotta medallion dated 1887 celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

As one moves along West Street from the church, there is a great deal to interest the man with an eye for brickwork. On the south side, Homewell Terrace, two late Victorian developments on either side of a pair of 18th-century cottages, turned public house, show the care given by the Victorian builder to the appearance of very modest buildings. Basically red brick, with yellow brick string courses, there is interesting detail in the brick moulding around windows and in the cornice. The boundary wall of the Robin Hood garden has cut in it 'GM 1832', and the back wall of the whole terrace, in the car park, carries the plaque 'J. Bulbeck's Wall 1872'. A scrap of wall behind the first house in Homewell Terrace was recently (1975) chalk and flint. Opposite Homewell No. 12, Davies Pharmacy, presents a false face to the world. The red brick front is mathematical tiling, which are overlapping weather tiles that imitate bricks. These became popular during the years of the Brick Tax from 1784 to 1850. They also made a poor man's timber house resemble a rich man's brick house and are quite rare in Hampshire. Across from the Meridian Centre can be seen an early 19th-century roof, more than a little uneven, with its row of handmade ridge tiles. Nearer, the Georgian No 30 is a shop whose upper storeys have had their carved stone decoration rotted by the weather to perfect examples of current bedded sandstone. Opposite at No. 9 the now demolished former Dittman and Malpas store had an east wall that was very much rebuilt with bricks and stone spanning 200 years. The filled in windows clearly indicated a one-time malthouse.

Across Park Road North on the north side, the second building has a Victorian front, but parts of the rest of the building date back to the 16th century, including a part with timber framing filled with daub and wattle. Next are a few Victorian buildings, one pair of semi-detached carrying the date 1889. A much re-fronted row of 18th-century cottages follow with most attractive roofs, one of which reputedly hides an as-new priest hole. Behind them in days gone by were bakeries, abattoirs and similar working premises. No. 90 used to have a fire mark.



The former Perseverance public house, North Street, showing the decorated *faience* tiles.



The 1957 built headquarters of the 3rd Havant Scout Group in Meyrick Road.



Fairfield Terrace.



The Old House at Home, South Street. Grade II listed.

Havant Borough History Booklets



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Hall Place, South Street. Grade II listed.



Nos 11 and 13 The Pallant. Grade II listed.



Magnolia House, East Street. Grade II listed.



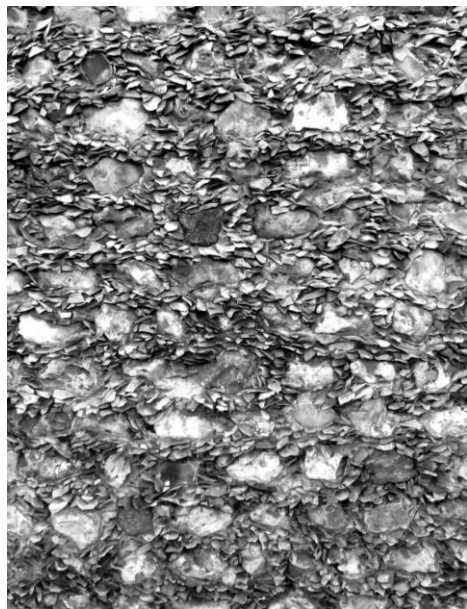
The narrow Tudor bricks of No 18a South Street. Grade II listed.



The Fareham chimney pots of No 26 North Street.



Mathematical tiles on Davies Pharmacy.



Galletted flint wall at the Museum.



Plain flint wall at Waitrose.

Across the road from Union Road, a pair of houses, superb brickwork and tasteful Rowlands Castle tiles are marked 'S.C. 1893'. Adjacent is Haven Terrace 1884. Further towards Bedhampton, Westfield House, No. 192, has an elaborate, attractive door and doorway opening onto the narrow pavement. It clearly belongs to the days when West Street was short of traffic, the lull between the busy time of the toll road and the coming of the car.

Returning to the east, Warblington and Denvilles are interesting urban developments, being, until the 1890s, farmland and an occasional brickfield.

At the top of Pook Lane is a rare and superb example of the flint worker's craft, a pair of cottages built in the mid-1700s. The walls are flint, knapped, galletted and coursed but not squared, whereas the dressings and quoins are also flint, knapped and squared.

Into South Leigh Road on the east side is a small house of Warblington Castle stone, Castle Cottage. Further up, is a pair of thatched semi-detached cottages. Irregular lumps of limestone form the footing and lower wall; above to the first floor some typical Georgian red with black headers and finally modern red brick. Then opposite Warblington School two detached houses, Nos 22 and 24 of the 1920s, which epitomise art deco architecture. White rendered, two wide bands of red brick contain the windows. These, typical of the style, are steel framed with close horizontal glazing bars, the glass being curved at the sides. The much over-hanging eaves and the doorway drawn with ruler and set square complete the picture.

It was mainly in the 1890s that this part of Havant developed as a commuter area. Large villas in grounds between half an acre (0.2 hectare) and two acres (0.8 hectares) were built for serving army and navy officers. The size was such that a minimum of three domestics was required. Many were built of the celebrated Fareham reds, some have them for the front wall with more modest bricks for the back and sides these being doubtless made within a few hundred yards (metres). Generally the bricks were laid with lime mortar. The standard shades of Victorian polychrome were achieved by having string courses and dressings of yellow stone or brick, the black being the pointing which had ashes added to it when being mixed. The coloured glass in the panelling of the doors and some windows and the tile surrounds of the many fireplaces were frequently high quality art nouveau. Some gates still in use are wide enough for horse and carriage to reach the stables in the rear.

Many gardens have been sold for infill and in some cases the house has been demolished for a miniature estate.

In Fourth Avenue is a terrace of dwellings which started in the early 20s as a leisure centre. Built as a many tabled billiard saloon and bar, it had behind it tennis courts and an ornamental garden. It later became a concert hall before its final conversion to houses.

There were brickfields in the centre of Denvilles and at the end of Fifth Avenue.

One of Havant's largest buildings is in Brockhampton Road. It is the Portsmouth Water Company's superb pumping house, which was built in 1925 of Southwater bricks to accommodate steam engines, it now has electric motors. Its massive simplicity contrasts effectively with the two Victorian gothic gatehouses.

In Meyrick Road is the Scout Headquarters, whose solid asymmetric front includes granites and a variety of rocks not generally seen in Hampshire. They are mementos of campsites used by the scouts.

Adjacent to the south-west corner of the Bedhampton level crossing is a small square house with wide eaves. It is the shape of a toll house and it has been said that it is the old toll house but this is unlikely as old maps show the toll house for the Cosham to Chichester turnpike to be on the other side of the road.

At the bottom of Kingscroft Lane was Havant's last horse drinking trough, cast iron and labelled 1898. Its present whereabouts is currently unknown.

Towards the church on the left is an empty field with a few walls. The field contained the Poor House until the early 1800s. A map of 1876 shows in the field a factory type of building connected to the railway by a turntable still to be seen. Was it a biscuit factory as a popular rumour suggests? It was connected by a footpath to a grain store, still standing and later a squash court, of 1868 on the lane to the railway bridge. This bridge is a good example of the bricklayer's art of the early 19th century; its gently sloping approaches remind the observer that it was built for horses dragging heavy wagons from the quay and loads of chalk down from Bedhampton Quarry.

Local Volunteers and Territorials

Gentlemen, I shall now speak to you as an Englishman, if ever war was again to take place, I should send every ship and every regular soldier out of the Kingdom, and leave the nation to be protected by the courage of her Sons at Home.'

Nelson, 1802, recorded in the *History of Monmouthshire*.

HAVANT AND EMSWORTH VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

Notice is hereby given, that a Public Meeting will be held on TUESDAY, November 22nd instant, at Two o' Clock, p.m., at the "Bear Inn," Havant, to take into consideration the formation of a Volunteer Rifle Corps, to be called the "HAVANT AND EMSWORTH VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS."

The formation of the Corps has the written sanction of the most noble the Marquis of Winchester, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, and large promises of support both of Money and Members have already been tendered.

The Corps though denominated the Havant and Emsworth Volunteer Rifle Corps, will embrace not only the Towns of Havant and Emsworth, but all the surrounding district and villages, not already absorbed by existing Corps. The Dress and Accoutrements will be plain, effective, and as inexpensive as circumstances will permit.

Subscriptions to the Fund will be announced at the Meeting.

All communications upon this subject may be addressed to, and every information obtained from EDWARD RICHARDS, Esq., Havant, Honorary Secretary, pro tem.

November 15th, 1859.

Such was the spirit of the age. The Government in the last part of the 18th century was concerned by the very real possibility of a French invasion. The events in revolutionary France in 1792 caused concern and in 1793 war looked inevitable. With the murder of Louis XVI all channels of political negotiations with France were cut off.

It is not the intention of this article to write a *History of the Volunteer Forces* in England, this has already been done, but this short introduction is, one feels, a necessary backcloth to the times. In April 1794 an act was passed, limited to the duration of the war, authorising the raising of Voluntary Corps for the defence of the kingdom, such corps to be subject to military discipline, and to be entitled to pay. The terms of service are defined as 'Under the Defence Acts' and in accordance with the so-called 'August Allowance'. The latter defined the unit's service and allowances as: *Pay for 20 days' training per year*. The requirement was that the volunteers:

Shall agree to march to any part of Great Britain for the defence thereof, in case of actual invasion or the appearance of any enemy in force upon the coast, and for the suppression of such rebellion or insurrection arising or existing at the time of such invasion.

In effect, the August Allowances penalised the volunteers enlisted under them for not having joined earlier; those corps which offered to serve before August 1803 received the so-called July Allowances, which granted pay for 85 days per year and required them only to serve within their own military district and not being liable to be sent anywhere in the country in case of invasion.

As a result of the 1794 Act only two companies were raised in Hampshire. One of these must have been in Havant; the *London Chronicle* of 28 July 1795 includes the following: *Havant Company of Volunteers, John Butler, Esq, to be Captain. Thomas Franklin Longcroft, to be Lieutenant. George Knight, to be Ensign.*

The County Defence Committee granted £50 to Captain Butler's Havant Corps, circa 1795/6.

Modification of the 1794 Act in 1798 resulted in greater enthusiasm and brought other corps into existence. In the War Office official list of 20 April 1799 Havant is included as having raised a corps. This corps was called 'The Loyal Havant Volunteers'. The strength was three officers and 74 other ranks, commanded by Captain Butler. In Southsea Castle there is, on exhibition the 'Uniform Jacket & Watering Cap, circa 1803, of Captain Thos Butler of Portsdown

Yeoman Cavalry'. The 'Watering Cap' fatigue dress is blue with gold braiding and tassels, and the jacket blue with yellow collar and cuffs. The cap and all buttons have the initials PYC. Surely this must be the dress of the same man who commanded the Havant Corps.

By the summer of 1799 the Voluntary Forces were generally efficient and reviews were being held countrywide. On 2 November 1799 our local corps were reviewed by General Whitelock, lieutenant governor of the garrison. The men obtained great credit for their excellence. It is also reported:

After the review, an elegant dinner was provided at the Bear Hotel for the officers and their friends...a variety of loyal and excellent toasts were given...a number of choice songs sung which entertainment prevented the companies' separation before a late hour when they returned home highly pleased!

The social side of the movement was an added attraction to enlistment.

At a formal parade in 1799 a colour was presented to the corps and dedicated in St Faith's Church by the then rector, Canon Renaud.

An original register of Hampshire Volunteers written in 1805 (now in the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester) shows that there was an influx of volunteers in Havant in 1803; 12 enlisted on the 1 September of that year.

Records of *Volunteers of the United Kingdom*, ordered by the House of Commons 9th and 13th December 1803, show as follows:

Havant Infantry. Commandant, Wm. Garrett; establishment, three companies of 63 men each. Actual strength: one field officer, two captains, six subalterns, three staff officers, nine sergeants, nine corporals, three drummers, 198 effective rank and file. Date of acceptance by the Government of the unit's offer of service: 1 September 1803. Emsworth Infantry. Commandant, Robt. Harfield; establishment, two companies of 63 men each. Actual: two captains, four subalterns, six sergeants, two drummers, 132 effective rank-and-file. Date of acceptance 1 September 1803.

The colours of the uniforms, Loyal Havant Infantry red with blue facings, light blue breeches, and without lace for officers. Loyal Emsworth Infantry, Red with blue facings, white breeches, gold lace for officers.

In 1804 the two corps were united under the title of 'The Havant and Emsworth Loyal Volunteers' under the command of Major Garrett. Following the victory of Trafalgar in 1806, and a more peaceful time, the movement declined throughout

the county and country generally. The last parade of the combined corps was 21 August 1809 when Major Garrett had the sad job of collecting muskets and uniforms. The Havant Corps then continued separately but only 130 strong until 1813.

The official order disbanding a majority of the corps in Hampshire, and these included Emsworth and Havant, was made at the command of the Prince Regent through Lord Malmesbury by letter to Captain Harfield dated 22 March 1813. One of the few corps remaining after 1813 was The Bere Forest Rangers, which had been founded in 1790. Again, Lt Col John Butler was in command. It would seem that this troop was, in part, supported by ex-members of the Havant Corps who still wished to be engaged in the delights of military manoeuvring. The Bear Hotel was their headquarters.

The remaining Voluntary Forces in Hampshire were disbanded by Act officially on 6 July 1814 and, following Waterloo, lapsed into inactivity for 40 years. These Voluntary Militia were the forerunner of the Territorial Army and Home Guard.

An appendix to this article gives a list of names which have appeared in various notes and references of this period.

The colours of The Loyal Havant Volunteers were blue silk, bearing the royal arms and motto of Hanover, the lion and unicorn supporters and wreath of rose and thistle. At the top left hoist is the Union Flag. It is interesting to note that these symbols are painted, not embroidered. The colour was held in safe keeping by the Longcroft family at Hall Place, South Street, for a number of years, after which it was hung in the north transept of St Faith's Church where it still is. In 1957 the Colour was repaired by Mrs Ozanne of the Royal School of Needlework, the expense being defrayed by the Trefoil Guild, upon the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell, the Guild engaged in this act of public service as a tribute to him. The fragile state of the colour prevented it from being removed from the church, and the difficult task of transferring the tattered flag on to the protective gauze was carried out on trestle tables set up in the south transept.

1859–1920

After 40 odd years of peace the country was again faced with the fear of invasion by France, when, in 1844, politicians were warning the country of its unpreparedness, and asking for the establishment of another volunteer force. For 14 years debate continued, and it was not until 12 May 1859, as a result of

public demand, that a circular, issued by the War Office, authorised the lords lieutenant of counties to raise voluntary corps under the Act passed in 1804, and the merging of the volunteer branch of HM Army into the new Territorial Force.

At first the enrolment throughout the whole country was rapid; there were 100,000 volunteers at the summer of 1860 and 200,000 in 1870. Men joined primarily for patriotic reasons, but there were also many social activities which made enlistment attractive, especially rifle shooting, which it was hoped would become a national sport and in which there were many competitions and prizes. A clause in a supplementary circular of 12 May 1859 says:

The instruction, therefore, that is most requisite is practise in the use and handling of the rifle, and with a view to this, sites for firing at a target should be established.

In those days there existed a very strong class distinction between middle and working classes. When the force was inaugurated it was a military institution for the middle class. A volunteer had to find his own uniform and equipment, thus making it almost certain that only the middle class would join. It was only in 1863 that, upon fulfilling certain conditions of drills etc., financial aid was given, and the number of working men enlisting increased. The enrolment of the middle class fell away, but always the commissioned officers were middle class, and rarely did a working class man reach above non-commissioned officer. The force increasingly became working class.

In 1863 a corps was founded in Havant and most of the leading inhabitants who were eligible joined, an efficient corps was established increasing to its maximum number in 1868.

The number of drills carried out varied, but about 30 per annum seems to have been a fair average. These drills and rifle shooting kept the volunteers very active, for it has to be remembered that there was not the leisure we enjoy today. The workman's day was nine or ten hours, and Saturday half-holiday was only just being brought in. Evenings were shorter in the absence of summer-time daylight saving, but even so a man would get in an hour's drill in the evenings. The following note: *I remember being at the butts shooting at 5 o'clock on a lovely summer morning* makes sense in this light. Camping was only possible by men being allowed to take one or two week's holiday, and then often and usually without pay.

During these years the Royal Hampshire Regiment provided the volunteer corps, and the writer of this article is indebted to the regimental secretary of this regiment for providing a rough lineage tree of the volunteers and the Portsmouth area of 1859–1971. He says: *I regret that the Regimental archives do not contain any direct details relating to the lineage of the Volunteers and Havant.* The record for the period 1859–1920 is as follows:

Portsmouth and Area

Hampshire Rifle Volunteers, 1859/60:

2nd. (Portsmouth) Administrative Battalion, 1860–80

3rd. (Portsmouth) Hampshire Rifle Volunteer Corps. 1880–85

3rd. (Portsmouth) Volunteer Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment 1885–1908

3rd. (Duke of Connaught's Own) Volunteer Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment Territorial Force, 1908–20

6th. (Duke of Connaught's Own) Battalion The Hampshire Regiment (TF) Territorial Army – 1920

6th. (Duke of Connaught's Own) Battalion The Hampshire Regiment (TA)

Uniform – Official Regulations accepted under the Act of 1802 stated:

The whole to be clothed in Red, with the exception of the Corps of Artillery, which may have Blue clothing, and the Rifle Corps which may have Green with black belts. The scarlet tunic and white piping and belts, 'Shako' type helmet.

This was possibly walking out uniform for our correspondent of 1935 (Mr EC Bailey) says: *The corps paraded in the old fashioned grey with green facings, not forgetting the hideous old shako topped by a green ball.*

Rifle Ranges

The rifle was being introduced in 1852. The range used by our local volunteers is clearly shown on a local map of 1873. The targets and markers' huts were near the shore at Conigar Point and the range ran 900 yards due north inland to the east of Warblington Church. The firing points were from 150 yards and stages of 50 yards to 600 yards, then 700, 800 and 900 yards. With the sea behind them it was fairly safe shooting, stray bullets falling into Chichester Harbour. The usual shooting range was 900 yards, but to shoot in the annual competition for the First Markmen's Badges meant shooting at 1,000 yards in the final stage, a considerable feat in those days. (100 yards = 91 metres).

By official circular 25 May 1859:

The annual allowance of practise and exercise ammunition for each trained volunteer: 90 rounds of ball and 60 of blank cartridge, and 165 percussion caps; and for the training of each recruit 110 ball and 20 blank cartridges, 143 percussion caps, and 20 ditto for snapping practise.

Our correspondent of 1935 (Mr EC Bailey) says:

He went to shoot for this competition at 5 o'clock on a lovely summer morning, for this was a great day at Warblington when the annual competition was held.

The prizes were supplied by local inhabitants and tradesmen, both monetary and in kind, one being a young pig. The prizes were distributed in the late Autumn at the annual dinner at the town hall. It doesn't say if the young pig was there but it does say that the pig was kept in a pen in the back of his, the winner's, woodhouse, and, unknown to the sanitary authorities, was secretly reared and named Denis – and grew to full stature. The winner was our correspondent neighbour. Rifle shooting was the key recreational attraction – it kept the men together. These were the days of the old Snyder Rifle which possessed the kick of a mule. With the coming of more efficient weapons with a longer range the butts at Conigar Point had to be abandoned. In 1911 an indoor brick built range was erected in Potash Road. The building ran parallel to the Town Ditch. It was demolished when Park Roads North and South were developed.

Reviews

Reviews were held annually on Easter Mondays, first on the Downs at Brighton and later on Portsdown Hill. The first was in 1861 on 1 April, when with only one corps of the Winchester Battalion attending, a provisional battalion was formed by amalgamation with the 3rd and 6th Hampshire Regiment, so it may well be presumed that a corps from Havant was there. The last was on Portsdown Hill in 1884. The reviews were very popular with the public; there were drills, parades and mock battles. The 'ideas' involved an attack on Portsmouth, that is, on the Hilsea Sea Lines from Portsdown Hill after a supposed silencing of the outer line of forts on that ridge. All available buildings, forts, barracks, barns, schools, public halls were thronged with billeted troops, while trainloads arrived from all parts; there were 69 Corps of Volunteers in Hampshire. As the crowds passed

under triumphal arches and through decorated streets, they were confronted by such mottoes as 'Defence not Defiance', 'One volunteer is worth ten pressed men'



Havant Volunteers circa 1890. Sgt W Leng (Rifle Instructor) is in the back row on the extreme right.

etc. camps, bands and marches. The corps, prior to WW1, had its own band conducted by Herr Kreyer of the RMA at Southsea, and used, at Christmas time to raise funds with their music – lighting being by diminutive lanterns hung from the badge in front of each shako, and the sheet music being held by small boys. Route marches were around Hayling, Rowlands Castle and other outlying parts of the district, accompanied by the ubiquitous small boys these marches presumably to beat up recruits. One volunteer recorded that his unit had gone to manoeuvres in the New Forest, all riding bicycles.

Although this article is about volunteers in Havant, Portsmouth and area, one would like to include the camps on Hayling Island of the Winchester and District Volunteers of the First Volunteer Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. The best camp there was in 1880. It was a favourite rendezvous for Havant youngsters, when they enjoyed the canteen concerts and the entertainments organized for the men in the evenings. One such camp was in 1878 and it is recorded that:

The Havant Company of the Portsmouth Battalion marched over and attended the church parade. Dr Millard, the chaplain of the Basingstoke Company, preached on the very appropriate text 'Ye shall dwell in booths seven days'. Leviticus xxiii v.42.

In 1878, Havant and Emsworth Volunteer Rifle Corps HQ and armoury were at Lymbourne. In 1895 the headquarters were at the Capital and Counties Bank, West Street and in 1897, the armoury was in West Street. By 1903 the headquarters were moved and were now at the back of the town hall in East Street, and in 1907 these premises were enlarged.

In 1909 Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, the owner of the town hall premises, leased the property to the County of Southampton Territorial Force for a period of seven years for use both as a drill and public hall. The impressive regimental badge of the Duke of Connaught's Own Hampshire Regiment (TA) in colour was a prominent addition to the carved stonework of the main entrance.

1939–1945

As is so well known the Local Defence Volunteers for this last war were known as the Home Guard with the nickname of 'Dad's Army'. A short reference is made to them in the section the two world wars but this article would have been incomplete without their inclusion in it. Their story is so well documented that any enlargement here is thought to be unnecessary.

The following names have occurred in the research of this article:

1798 – Privates, Wm Arter.

John Ford (Promoted Corporal in 1803).

Chris Stevens.

At the dinner at the Bear Hotel on 2 November 1799 there were:

General Whitelock and suite.

Mr Barwell (owner of Stansted House).

The Reverend Mr Tew.

Colonels Hood and Arnaud.

Majors Garrett, Deacon and Grigg.

and many other Volunteer Officers.

1803 – Privates: John Bulbeck.

Thos. Bulbeck.

Wm Sainsbury.

Henry Ford.

Jas Sainsbury.

Chas Arter.

1811 – James Stallard (Emsworth Volunteers) promoted to Corporal in Captain Merrick's Company, West Sussex Militia, commanded by the Earl of Egremont.

From the Appendices to the Lieutenant's Papers in the Hampshire Record Office at Winchester we find:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Date of Commission</i>
<i>Wm. Garrett, Leigh Park</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>01. 9. 1803</i>
<i>John A Hinkley , resigned</i>	<i>Captain, promoted from</i>	<i>01. 9. 03 resigned</i>
	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>05. 11. 05</i>
<i>James Brown</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>Geo Garrett</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>01. 11. 04</i>
<i>Thos. Lilliet</i>	<i>Lieut</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>John Todd</i>	<i>Lieut</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>John Knight</i>	<i>Lieut</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>Chas. Longcroft</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>James Ayles</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>James White</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>27. 10. 07</i>
<i>John Bannister</i>	<i>Surgeon</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>Revd Geo. Renaud</i>	<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>01. 09.03</i>
<i>Wm. Lilliet</i>	<i>Adjutant</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>James White</i>	<i>Quarter Master gazetted</i>	<i>20. 12. 03</i>
	<i>without pay</i>	

Emsworth Corps

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Date of Commission</i>
<i>Robt. Harfield</i>	<i>Captain (Command)</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>John Gibbs</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>25. 04. 11</i>
<i>Chas. Mant</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>Wm. Bear Young</i>	<i>Lieut (Promoted from Ensign)</i>	<i>25. 04. 11</i>
<i>John Gibbs</i>	<i>Lieut</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>Jas. Whitley</i>	<i>Lieut</i>	<i>29. 05. 12</i>
<i>Nicholas Hamman</i>	<i>Lieut</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>Joseph Sands</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>29. 05. 12</i>
<i>Jas. Whitley</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>25. 04. 11</i>
<i>J.P. Holloway</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>01. 09. 03</i>
<i>Geo. Young</i>	<i>Ensign</i>	<i>25. 04. 11</i>

1809–25 February, Saturday. Mr. Gorton of the White Hart interred with Military Honours.

1812–21 September. Mr George Collins of the George, Havant a sergeant in Captain Butler's Corps of Bere Forest Rangers was interred with Military Honours.

1890–1892. 3rd. Vol. Batt. H.Q. Lymbourne. Captain T Caparn. Captain H Atkinson-Grimshaw.

1897 – Ditto. H.Q. West Street. Major F Stubington, Lieut G Hall-King, Serg. Instructor S Kilburn, Col. Serg. H. Brown.

1899 – Ditto. Ditto. Lieut G Hall-King, secretary.

1903 – Ditto. H.Q. Town Hall. Captain LW Constantine. Colour Sergeant-Instructor Wm J Roger (Mr Rogers, Captain of Miniature Rifle Club which went to Bisley).

1907 – Ditto. H.Q. Town Hall in enlarged premises Captain Woolmer White (South Leigh Park) Col. Serg. Instr. Jas G Sampson.

1911 – Ditto. Ditto. Capt. R. Bullen. Hon. Sect. Serg. W. Leng.

Rifle Range. Potash Road, President, Sir FW Fitzwygram, Chairman, Colonel F Stubington, Captains, WJ Rogers and W Leng, Secretary, CEB Longcroft.

Dates not clear:

CO Captain Scott, a farmer living at the farmhouse on the Emsworth side of the Green Pond.

CO Captain Du Pre (apparently killed by a gun accident in the grounds of his house at Denvilles).

Drill Sergeants: House, Hodgins, Luff, Blackmore and Carter who was a champion shot. Colour Sergeants: T Suter, Collins. Lieut J Chadwick.

There is also evidence that yet another volunteer formation was raised in the county, this time at Havant. On 28 September 1746, William Battine had written to the Duke of Newcastle about an alleged attempt on Portsmouth, but his letter had also reported that:

Several of the principal people of that town [Havant] and adjacent parts told me that they were desirous and ready to arm themselves and such of the lower sort of the people in that neighbourhood as they can trust and form themselves into an association against any rising or attempt that may be made against the government in these parts where there are a good many papists.

(BL Add. Mss. 32705, fo.223r)

Although they were enthusiastic, they had little knowledge about the legality of being in arms and wished for directions from above. Two companies were raised and Dr Edward Bayly: *Well attached to our happy establishment*, was the captain of one of them (BL Add. Mss. 32705, fo. 223r, Add. Mss 32709, fo. 285r). However, the authorities in London were slow to help them (though less slow than with Ridge's company). It was only on 2 December that Newcastle told the master of the ordnance to supply them with enough military equipment for 100 men (TNASP44/133, 15). Apparently they were *of use in disarming and keeping the papists and disaffected in those parts in awe*. (BLAdd. Mss. 32709, fo. 285r).

Seditious Words and Loyal Oaths: Hampshire and the Jacobite Threat, Jonathan Oates (Hampshire Papers No.28, 2007).

Law and Order

The Norman Conquest of 1066 resulted in changes in the system of law and order in England. Before this time England was divided into several kingdoms, and all laws were local. Following the Norman Conquest, the law was administered by the county sheriffs, sometimes together with the Earl and Bishop, in the courts of the shires and hundreds, and by the lords of the manor through the manorial courts.

Trial by ordeal or combat, one of the earliest ways of settling disputes, became unacceptable to the church and the crown, and in 1166 Henry II issued a decree

known as 'The Assize of Clarendon'. This set out a system of trial by a jury of 12 free and law abiding men and was the basis of the present judicial system.

The Normans introduced the term 'constable'. Initially it was used to describe an officer in charge of a military force. Both the hundred courts and the manorial courts appointed constables. The post of high constable, for each of the hundreds of a shire, was abolished in 1869 owing to diminishing responsibilities. The petty constables, who were chosen by the manorial courts leet, were unpaid and had no uniform apart from their staff of office (truncheon), which was usually made of wood and bore the insignia of the appointing authority. The constable was appointed for a year and could be replaced if he failed to please. As the post was a compulsory one, and unenviable, the practice developed of the appointed constable paying someone to perform the duties on his behalf. Sometimes the same man would serve for several years receiving payment from a different person each year.

The duties of the constable included arrangements for recruiting and billeting of soldiers, the apprehension of offenders in the parish, and seeing that the streets and common gutters were kept clear of rubbish. In cases of suicide (felo-de-se) the constable could be ordered to bury the body in some public place, usually at a crossroads, and often with a stake driven through it.

Many early crimes were connected with agriculture and rural matters. A Statute of 1562 laid down that no servant was permitted to leave his town or parish without a certificate signed by the constable and two householders. On arrival at his new place of work, the certificate had to be shown to the constable, curate, churchwarden or other official. Failure to do this was punishable by whipping. Other punishments of the time were use of the stocks, pillory, ducking stool, cage, tumbrel, imprisonment and hanging. In 1200 a punishment for minor theft was to be nailed by the ear to the pillory, while major thefts were punishable by the loss of one or both eyes, a hand, or by scalding.

Havant had a new pair of stocks in 1656 and the whipping post was renewed. Punishments were always carried out in a public place as a deterrent to others. In later times, transportation was used as a punishment. A report for 1895 shows that in England 69 persons received corporal punishment. In 67 cases the cat-o'-nine-tails (cat) was used, the number of strokes varying from ten to 25. In 1926 a youth of 16 received 16 strokes of the birch and eight months imprisonment for assaulting two young women with intent to rob them. The cat was used in England for the last time in 1932 and the birch in 1948.

Among the local offences recorded are those of Robert Dudman, habitual drunkard, who, in 1566, was fined 3s. 4d. (about 17p), and Robert Norrys, who was fined the same amount for drawing blood with a dagger. Alice Toms and Eleanora Barron were sentenced to the tumbrel when they were 'deemed to be common scolds'. The outcome of the case against George Wells in 1684 is not recorded, but information was given before Isaac Betts, deputy mayor, and Sir John Biggs, recorder, that George Wells was seen at the Black Dog in Havant wearing shoe buckles similar to those stolen from the Swan in Chichester. The Pallant was: *Choked up with straw and dung* in 1768; and in 1769 fines were imposed on traders whose weights and measures were checked by the constable and found to be inaccurate.

During the Middle Ages strangers were allowed to trade in the town during the period of the fairs. Special courts were convened, called the Courts of Pie-Powder (Pieds Poudreux – Dusty-footed) to try, sentence and carry out punishments on the many rogues, vagabonds, pickpockets and beggars attracted by the fairs. The courts were dissolved when the fair was over.

1803 brought the threat of the invasion from France and with it a new duty for the constable to estimate the numbers of men, weapons and food stocks available in the area. Although highwaymen operated on the lonely roads outside the town, the constable was not responsible for the safety of travellers.

Societies of Guardians were formed to protect persons and property. They undertook to pay for the defence of their members if they were brought before a court and they offered rewards for information.

Resurrection Men (body-snatchers) were active in the 1820s and grave watchers' huts were built in the churchyards, as at Warblington, so that the graves of the newly buried could be protected. The stolen bodies were sold for dissection and there was a ready market for valuables found in the graves. Thefts of horses were prevalent as the horse was in great demand, both as a means of transport and for farming. Rewards were offered for information leading to the apprehension of persons guilty of infanticide.

The agricultural uprisings of 1830 were sometimes beyond the powers of the police, and the military authorities were called upon for assistance. This was the case with Havant, when 100 men of the 47th Regiment were deployed in the Havant, Horndean, Purbrook and Emsworth area, and a further 50 men were in readiness at Cosham. This subject is covered in the next article.

In 1831 Havant had its own Divisional Bench of Magistrates and the parish paid

a night-watchman to assist the constable. The courts leet continued to elect constables during the 19th century but they were not employed in the maintenance of law and order. Watch Committees were set up in 1835 to regulate the activities of the police, provide accommodation, investigate complaints and make a quarterly return to the Home Office. At this time a police sergeant was living in Havant, and the birth of his child was registered.

Assaults were often made on constables during their efforts to evict intoxicated persons from beer houses and so the instruction was given that they should attend in order to keep the peace while the landlord himself evicted the person he had allowed to become disorderly.

In 1851 Sergeant Frederick Cavell, born in Fawley in 1820, was the police officer in Havant. His wife Ellen was born in Havant in 1827, and they had two sons, Frederick aged two, born in Basing, and Henry, aged seven months, born in Andover. A year later it is recorded that Michael Turner was the high constable and bailiff.

The Quarter Sessions of 1852 record some of the cases heard in this area: William Fisher for stealing a tame rabbit, one week in prison; Louisa Leech for stealing a cloth cap, three weeks in prison; J Sullivan for stealing three five-pound-notes, three months in prison; John O'Brien, for stealing two pairs of boots, seven years transportation (he had previous convictions). A sentence of six months in prison was passed on Susannah Rumbold for maliciously wounding a police constable, and on John Hayman for stealing a pair of boots.

Transportation, this time for ten years, was the sentence meted out to Miles Confrey for stealing four pairs of trousers. He also had previous convictions. James Brigg and Charles Daniels were convicted of carrying away two bushels of oysters from the oyster beds and sentenced to four months in prison.

The Alehouse Licensing Acts of 1822 prohibited victuallers from serving as constables. In 1849 the constable had a duty to see that Hackney Carriages were licensed if plying for hire, and with the coming of the railways, police were expected to ensure safe passage for the public at railway stations and prevent persons from attempting to steal from the trains. By 1856 the stocks were no longer used as a punishment.

The courthouse and police station were built in West Street in 1858. The building was later used by the Bench Theatre Company. The site was formerly known as Budd's Field, and was assigned in two parts, 1855 and 1857 respectively, for a period of 1,000 years for a peppercorn rent. At this time the

Havant Petty Sessions were in a sub-division of the Fareham Petty Sessional Division. Prior to this, the petty sessions were held fortnightly at the Black Dog. There are also mentions of petty sessions held in a Working Men's Club.

In 1828, Sir Robert Peel instigated an enquiry into the increase of crime during 1827 in the London and Middlesex areas, and this resulted in the reorganisation of the Metropolitan Police System which had repercussions throughout the country. The success of this new force paved the way for the passage of the Rural Police Act in 1839, and laid down the basis of the modern police system.

Sergeant Charles Arthur Byles was the police officer in 1865. He was then 45 years old and married to Louisa. They had a son, Charles, born 1845, who worked as a carpenter.

Sergeant Byles, according to newspaper reports of the time, was well liked by law-abiding people, and during his term of office the town was orderly. He was noted for the way he would shadow any vagrants until they were out of the town, and arrest them if he caught them begging. He was also strict with small boys, and would give them a sharp reminder with his cane if he caught them playing with their hoops in the roadway. Sergeant Byles retired and left the town in the 1880s.

Some offences recorded for 1865 carried salutary sentences: seven years penal servitude for George Buckley, baker, for stealing wearing apparel – he had previous convictions; Sarah Russell stole a pair of trousers and received six weeks in prison; Ann Sarah Church, nine months for stealing a doormat, and an errand boy, James Johnson, was found guilty of stealing various articles and given three weeks in prison followed by five years in a reformatory. Mary Ann Flucks (married) for taking away by fraud a child under 14 years received six months in prison, and Sarah Fry (mother of the above) for feloniously maintaining the said Mary Ann Flucks knowing her to have committed a felony, two months in prison.

By 1871, Charles Butler, 33, constable, was serving with Sergeant Byles. With him were his wife, Mary, 33, and their ten-year-old daughter Louisa.

A new duty for the police came with the introduction of the secret ballot in 1872. The sealed ballot boxes had to be transported by the police to the place where they were to be counted. A few years later, 1878 and after, the police had to keep a watchful eye on the ruffians who delighted in brawling in the street when crowds were attracted by the Salvation Army street bands.

The magistrates sitting in 1878 were John Deverell Esq., (chairman), Rear

Admiral GWD O'Callaghan, CB Henry-Spencer Esq., Captain Thomas Hodgkinson RJN., Captain Hankey RN, and Colonel F Fitzwygram Bart. John Longcroft Esq. was clerk to the magistrates. During 1880 the court registers show that some 500 cases were heard by the magistrates. Throughout the period 1750 to 1964, the clerks to the justices were employed in a part-time capacity and were partners in the local firm of solicitors, Messrs Longcroft and Lewis. In fact until 1939 magistrates clerks were all from the Longcroft family. From 1939 to 1964 Mr J Edward Lewis held the post, and was the last person to hold the appointment on a part-time basis. Mr DRJ Doney was appointed as the first full-time clerk to the magistrates in Havant in 1964.

In 1875, the number of days leave granted to the police was increased from four to seven. Wages in 1878 were as follows:

Superintendent's annual salary – £152 18s. 0d. (£152.90) to £130 15s. 10d. (£130.04).

Inspector's annual salary – £101 17s. 11d. (£101.89).

Sergeant's annual salary – £76 0s. 10d. (£76.04).

Constable's annual salary – £60 16s. 8d. (£60.83) or £51 14s. 2d. (£51.71) if living in the station. Sergeant William Knapton and one constable were stationed in Havant in 1885.

The Hampshire Regiment 3rd Vol. Batt. were available if required to assist the police. They had their headquarters at Lymbourne. It was in this year that £289 was made available for the police of the Hampshire Constabulary to purchase 33 bicycles for use by the force. An allowance was paid to those using their own bicycles as long as the cycles were inspected and passed as roadworthy. The uniform at the time was top hat, blue frock coat, white (or blue) trousers, a greatcoat or cape and a truncheon.

In November 1880 a child was murdered in Havant. The victim was nine-years-old Percy Searle who lived in Somerstown, which was at the east end of Waterloo Road. He had left home to buy a yard of shirting from Randalls the drapers, in North Street. On his return he was just near the Pound in Fairfield Road when he was attacked. His screams were heard by James Piatt, a local milkman, who came to help him. He was met by an 11-year-old boy, whose name was Husband, who told him that he had seen a man murdering the boy. Percy had died of numerous stab wounds; a blunt pocket knife was found nearby. Husband was charged with murder three days later and sent for trial to Winchester. Despite substantial

evidence against him he was acquitted. His family lived in a tumbledown cottage which was behind houses on the west side of North Street. To mark the place where Percy died, a large black cross was painted on the wall of what was then Manor House School, now No 1 Manor Close, facing St Faith's Church House, originally Pallant House.

Prize fights were illegal, and it was a duty of the police to detect and prevent them happening. Stray dogs were disposed of by the police, the method being discharging prussic acid from a syringe down the animal's throat so that death would be swift and painless. Dogs had to be muzzled, and owners were fined for failing to do so. The order to muzzle dogs was revoked in Hampshire in 1896, but dogs had to wear a collar bearing the name and address of the owner.

A source of nuisance was the traction engine, and many complaints were received of noise, smoke, damage to property, and danger to persons. In July 1896 Joseph Matthews of Hambledon was seen by PC Joyce on the Havant Road, driving a locomotive, the engine of which was belching forth thick smoke. It was drawing six or seven waggons. Matthews was fined 5s. 6d. (27½p) and 4s. (20p) costs.

At this time the population of Havant was 3,474, of which 69 were inmates of the workhouse. George Barton and three constables were attached to Havant police station and in 1903 James Cottle and three constables.

The Motor Car Act of 1903 brought changes in the police duties and responsibilities, such as speed checks and dangerous driving and traffic control.

In 1905 a Havant resident was fined £1 and 14s. (70p) costs for keeping a male servant (a butler) without having taken out a licence as required by the Inland Revenue Authorities.

During WW1 special constables were introduced. They helped in many duties, in particular those connected with possible air raids, the apprehension of deserters from the services, the registration of aliens and billeting arrangements for the armed forces.

Reforms in the pay structure and conditions of service followed a police strike in August 1918, and the Sex Disqualification Act of 1919 removed the bar on women becoming constables. As early as 1896 women had been employed to help with female prisoners and wives of serving policemen also helped.

The Schneider Trophy Contest in 1929 brought extra traffic and crowds and the Havant force was increased by twelve extra constables, who were housed at Havant and Hayling for the duration of the event.



John Parsons joined Hants police on 11 July 1880. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1896 despite irregular conduct at West Cowes in 1882 (for which he was fined two day's pay) and being in a public house when he should have been on duty in 1883 (which cost him four day's pay). He was sergeant at Havant from 1902 until he left the force in 1906.

Police became motorised in the 1930s with motor bikes with and without sidecars, and motor cars. In 1931, due to the depression, the police accepted a reduction in their pay at all levels. Training was updated to cope with the speed of communications and transport.

Havant area achieved divisional status in 1965. Until this time it had been a sub-division of the Fareham Division. The Havant sub-division, together with three other parishes from the Petersfield division, became a new division under the command of a superintendent.

In 1967 the amalgamations of police forces took place throughout the country, and Hampshire Constabulary combined with the forces of Southampton and Portsmouth cities. The divisional boundaries were re-aligned, and a new Havant Division was created under the command of a chief superintendent. The area included Havant and Waterlooville Urban District, Petersfield Urban District, and Cosham area of Portsmouth, Portchester and the parishes of Denmead, Hambledon, Southwick and West Meon.

The Agricultural Uprising of 1830

In 1815 a Corn Law was passed, which said that foreign corn could not be imported until home grown wheat reached the price of 80s. (£4) a quarter (28lb/13kg). The intention was to keep the price of corn artificially high in the interests of the landowners. It did nothing to help the plight of the poorly paid farm labourers, who found they were unable to afford to buy the food they helped to produce. To relieve their hardship, payments could be made to the poor from the Parish Poor Rate, called the Speenhamland System. The money for this was levied from the ratepayers.

The unrest of the labourers erupted in violence in 1830 when farm machinery was destroyed and hayricks burned. A meeting was held in Havant in November 1830 at which the inhabitants of Havant and surrounding parishes were invited:

To consider measures to prevent the recurrence of tumults and the best measures of relieving the poor by finding work for them.

It was resolved that a strong constabulary force should be formed in each parish to suppress any riotous assemblies. It was the opinion of the meeting that there should be an increase in the wages of the farm workers.

In November 1830 the violence spread to Havant, Emsworth and Westbourne. According to a report of the time a mob of labourers congregated at Westbourne.

The size of the mob grew as they went from farm to farm destroying threshing machines and setting fire to hayricks.

Word reached Havant on the Thursday morning 18 November 1830 that:

A large body of men armed with sledge hammers, cross-cut saws and large club sticks were in the yard of Mr Gawan Holloway, at Emsworth, cutting and knocking his threshing machine to pieces, and that they meant to destroy all the other machines in the neighbourhood.

Captain Leeke, a magistrate residing at Havant, rode on horseback to Emsworth and confronted the group now 30 strong. They would not listen to him and visited four other farms gathering force as they went. At one of the farms they stole a quantity of pork and beer.

Returning to Havant, Captain Leeke and another magistrate, Sir John Lee, contacted the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, asking for assistance. 100 men of the 47th Regiment under the command of Captain Dalzell marched to Cosham and were distributed at Horndean, Purbrook, Havant and Emsworth. Another 50 Royal Marines, under the command of Captain D Campbell, marched to Cosham to await orders. Special constables were sworn in before the magistrates at Havant and warrants were issued for the arrest of about ten men who were considered to be the ringleaders.

On receiving news that the ringleaders were in a beer-shop at Westbourne, a party, headed by the two magistrates, broke down the door of the beer-shop and after some resistance apprehended 11 men, two of whom later made their escape. Five were committed to Gosport, Bridewell and four were sent to Chichester.

A later report stated that Edward Sydenham, 21, and John Hudson, 33, who had been taken to Gosport, John Duke, 20, who escaped and was later apprehended, William Jenman, 21, and George Todd were found guilty of breaking a threshing machine. James Ford and Samuel Morey were charged with a like offence at Havant, that of breaking a machine belonging to Sarah Holloway and others. They were found guilty.

The hearing was before a special commission at Winchester. A total of 298 prisoners were sentenced at Winchester Assizes. Some were acquitted; of those found guilty, some were transported for life, some for seven years, some were fined, others received prison sentences, some with hard labour. In other areas the death penalty was passed.

Edward Sydenham, John Hudson, William Jenman, James Ford, Samuel Morey and John Duke were sentenced to seven years transportation, and George Todd received 12 months imprisonment with hard labour.

Education

Until the 19th century no provision was made for state education, though a number of grammar schools had been endowed by Livery Companies or built by wealthy individuals, often for some set purpose. Churcher's College, Petersfield, for example, was established in the 18th century by Richard Churcher using money from the East India Company: *To teach ten poor boys the mathematics.*

Havant had no such foundation, though as early as 1710 it was recorded that the room above the covered market near St Faith's Church, was let out as a school. Later in that same century a Reverend James Skelton, vicar of Hayling Island, kept a grammar school in Havant and a Mr Locke had a private school in East Street.

The Manor House Academy was opened in 1797 and continued, on the site where the Manor Close estate now stands, until just before WW2.

Several private and dame schools occupied various premises during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In the early years of this century, Brightside, a school for girls and small boys, was opened in Jessamine House, North Street, moving to larger premises in Grove Road to cope with increased numbers. This was owned for many years by a Miss K Williams, a Sorbonne graduate, and moved, not long before her retirement, to a pleasant regency house, Woodfield, which had a large garden in Langstone Road. The name was changed to Havant High School. It became recognised by the Ministry of Education in 1958 and finally closed, suddenly and unexpectedly, in 1971. One of its original teachers, a Marjorie Byerley, acquired Warblington Villa, a big house and garden in Emsworth Road.

At about the time of the outbreak of WW2 she opened Betweenways, a day and boarding nursery school. She was fortunate in those war years in being able to appoint trained teachers on to her staff, many of them wives of young scientists doing admiralty research at West Leigh House. Betweenways provided a warm and stable community for children ranging from babies to seven-year-olds. When increasing numbers made a move imperative the school transferred to Bedhampton, where it flourished for a few years under a different ownership before the building was made into flats for the elderly.

It was the churches who first concerned themselves with education for the masses. In 1808 the British and Foreign School Society was founded as a non-denominational, though largely nonconformist body for the promotion of education. It was followed three years later by the Anglican National Society. The British School, established in Havant in 1829, was in Market Lane and by 1875 there were 110 children on the roll. Unfortunately the records of this school were destroyed during the last war and little more is known of it except that the building was up for sale in 1896.

Meanwhile, an Anglican National School had been built in Brockhampton Lane and attracted a higher population than its dissenting rival. It was supported partly by contribution and partly by weekly 1d. ($\frac{1}{2}$ p) payments from the children so that the first item on the timetable for Monday morning was 'pence taking'. The master received £50 a year plus a residence, while the mistress was paid only £30. An inspection in 1863 recorded 92 passes in the three Rs, a very fair result which merited a grant of £29 19s. 3d. (£29.96).

Grants were allotted on attendance and the performance of pupils, so that days off for lack of shoes, or because a child was needed at home, could make a difference to the ease of running a school.

The Roman Catholic Church, built in West Street in 1875, had its own school adjoining the presbytery. The school was intended to accommodate 40 pupils, and children walked each day from as far away as Cowplain to attend. Previously children had been taught in a room at the Catholic Mission in Brockhampton Lane.

The first – and very far-reaching – Education Act of 1870, established local Boards whose duty it was, within two years, to provide enough school places for children between the ages of five and 13. So anxious were the church authorities to prevent a secular board school from being built that they hastily added to their existing accommodation by erecting a separate school for girls and infants in Durley Road, which afterwards was renamed School Road. This later became a mixed school, but when, 20 years after the Act, a board school was built in Fairfield Road, its numbers fell and by the late 1950s it contained only a handful of infants and finally closed. Its building was for some years used as an annexe and later as commercial premises. [It has since been demolished for the redevelopment of the area.]

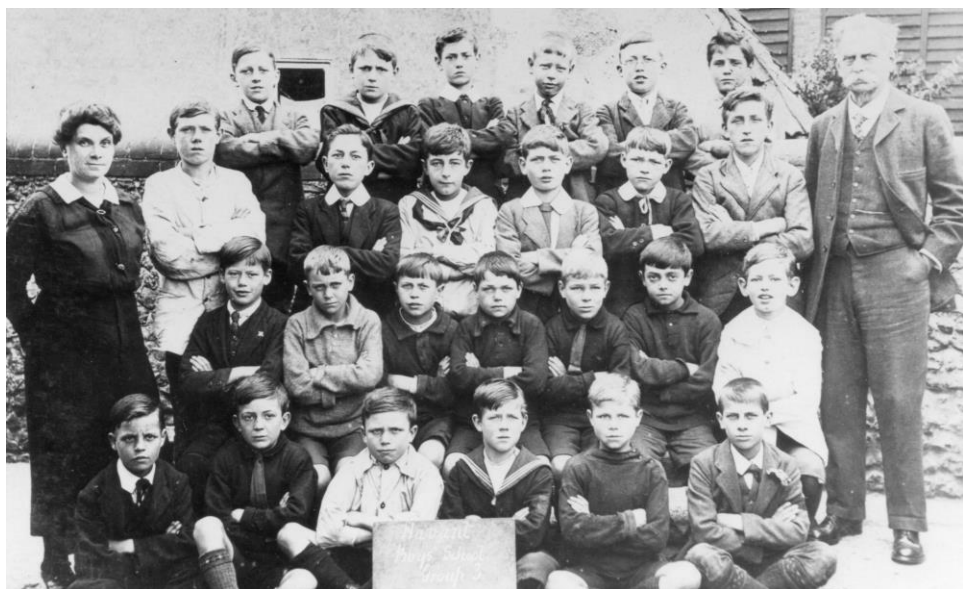
Not surprisingly the first school board contained familiar names of men already involved in other Havant activities, and included Messrs S Clarke, W Fletcher and

TA Stallard, while another member of that family, AE Stallard, was the architect. Mr ER Longcroft was the clerk. The school opened in 1896 and was typical of its period – solidly built of brick with lofty ceilings wasting a great deal of heat, and high windows so that the children's attention was not distracted. It was T-shaped so that the headmaster, strategically established at the angle, could keep an eye on all that was happening. And it was more than 50 years, three Education Acts and two world wars later before another school was built in Havant. Fairfield School remains structurally unchanged except that rooms have been partitioned off and a false ceiling put in the hall. [In recent years an extension has been built and floors have been added to make extra classrooms in the previously wasted roof space.] During WW2, when the town's population had considerably increased, two classes competed against each other in that hall – the eventual provision of a dividing curtain was welcomed – and must have made for considerable difficulty. But, as a ten-year-old girl was heard to say: *I have learned quite a lot of the boys' Geometry; it is more interesting than our needlework.*

The 1902 Education Act took schools out of the hands of boards and made them a county council responsibility. They changed their name and became elementary schools for children aged five to 14), and the county councils were empowered to provide secondary (grammar) schools, taking some fee payers and some free place scholarship pupils. No provision was made in Havant.

The scholarship examination was the forerunner of the condemned 11-plus, except that every child was not compelled to sit it; elementary schools only entered those whom they thought had a chance of success. During the thirties these scholarship children were subjected to a stringent means test which meant that some were forced to forego their places as their parents could not afford the cost of fees, books and equipment.

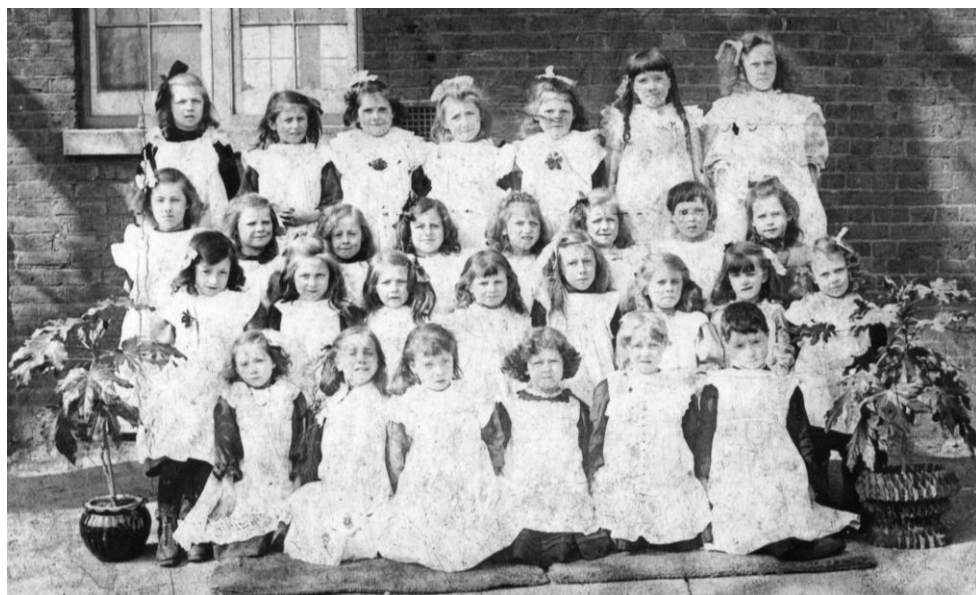
Havant Elementary School was lucky with its headmasters. Mr Harry Beeston, the first, was an authority on snails and an ardent naturalist. There were many pupils of his in the town who remembered him with love and gratitude for having opened their eyes to the delights of nature. He remained there until 1925, when he was followed by Mr Charles Olding, who stayed for five years. Mr Charles Burbidge (1930 to 1951) knew all of his pupils and most of their parents and maintained high standards of work and behaviour. On his retirement there was a brief interim of a year, after which Mr Colverson took over, saw the school through the transition after the 1944 Education Act to primary school, and in



Pupils and staff at Havant Boys' School, Brockhampton Lane, circa 1910.



Havant National School , Brockhampton Lane, Infants III circa 1905.



The original Warblington School at Green Pond closed in 1906. The entire school is shown here.



The Havant Council School Headmaster, Harry Beaston, and his 'Bird and Tree Gang' planting the Horse Chestnut trees in Havant Park circa 1910. Some of these have now died but have been replaced.

1957 moved with the junior children to Bosmere School leaving Fairfield School for infants only. During these 61 years, long serving heads and staff provided that stability which is so helpful to growing children.

The 1944 Act brought about major changes. Schools were designated as primary schools, infants five to seven and junior seven to eleven, sometimes together and sometimes in separate establishments, and secondary schools from 11 to 15. All children were to receive free secondary education which could be in grammar schools (the previous secondary) for the academic few or technical or modern schools. In the event few technical schools were built, the modern providing courses in practical subjects. Children were selected for grammar school places by the 11-plus test and were sent to Purbrook Park High School which was mixed, Petersfield High School for Girls or Churcher's College which took boys only. The opening of Havant Grammar School in 1964 overcame this difficulty.

The Act made it necessary to provide for the majority of children of 11 in secondary modern schools (the word modern was soon dropped). Temporary huts were hastily erected in South Street and the Havant Secondary School opened. On a piece of land in Southleigh Road, bought before the war by the county council as a site for a grammar school, the first purpose built secondary school, Warblington, was opened in 1955. The South Street huts were then occupied by the juniors from Fairfield and became Bosmere Junior School. These temporary huts have since been demolished and a new building erected.

The growth of the Leigh Park estate, with its large child population, made the provision of school places urgent. In the next 15 years 14 primary and three secondary schools, Oak Park, Broomfield and Wakefords, were built to cater for the estate children.

A major re-organisation scheme was put into effect in 1974 when the secondary schools became comprehensive, taking pupils from 11 to 16, with only Wakefords retaining its 6th form. The grammar school became a post 16 college, admitting anyone with the will to learn, regardless of academic ability. The opening of South Downs Further Education College – a controversial open plan design – has given the student who wishes to continue education after the school leaving age choice of establishment and a wide variety of courses, academic, practical, vocational or just educational. Another re-organisation took place in September 1978 when first, middle and comprehensive schools were established with age ranges of five to 8, 8 to 12 and 12 to 16.

Further Education was well catered for with Oak Park School becoming the centre where a full time principal and part-time vice-principal organised the largest such centre in Hampshire, laying on evening and daytime classes in enormous variety from yoga to advanced mathematics, creative writing to metalwork. Youth facilities was also been provided with the addition of youth wings to some of the secondary schools, and by the sponsoring of youth clubs in the others. In January 1964 a Havant Branch of the Workers Educational Association was formed, and over the years the number of students joining has steadily increased.

By 1961 the Urban District of Havant and Waterloo had become big enough to be able to claim status as an Excepted District for Education, and an education officer was appointed. The following year a committee was formed and its functions laid down, delegated by the County Education Committee. In effect this meant the day to day running of the schools, minor building projects and repairs, staffing and generally smoothing out problems that were bound to arise where a large number of people are employed in separate establishments. This arrangement worked well; it was popular with parents and teachers who appreciated having prompt and immediate attention locally for what were often local issues. Previously they had felt very remote from Winchester, the seat of the county council and 25 miles away, and welcomed a Havant office easy to visit. Unfortunately the re-organisation of Local Government Act took effect in 1974 and made such delegation illegal thus removing Excepted District status from all areas which had previously enjoyed it. The new system of areas, within the county but without delegation, and with decisions having reverted to Winchester, left local people again feeling themselves to be in an outpost of the empire.

By the early 1990s the falling number of children in the area meant that three secondary schools in Leigh Park could no longer be supported. After lengthy controversial consultations the decision was made to close and eventually demolish the Oak Park School. Broomfield changed its name to Park and later Park Community and Wakeford's to Staunton Park and then to Staunton Community Sports College. By 2010 a further drop in pupil numbers led to proposals to close one of the two Leigh Park schools but a successful campaign to keep them led to both being kept with Staunton becoming Havant Academy, the first school in Hampshire to become an academy.

Private Schools

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, a considerable number of private schools flourished in Havant. In East Street alone were the Misses Watsons' School for Young Ladies' at Elmore House, the Misses Bannisters' Ladies' School at Woodford House, and the establishment kept by the Misses Simmons at Waldron House.

At first glance, it may seem surprising that a small market town could support so many schools. However, it must be remembered that the private schools were very small, many of them real 'Dame Schools', where a handful of children were taught, and often cared for too, by the proprietor or proprietors.

A notice in the *Hampshire Telegraph* of 19 January 1829 announces the reopening of the Misses Langtrys' Establishment in West Street, Havant, for the tuition of 12 young ladies.

The Misses Langtry beg to assure their friends and the public that no pains should be spared to improve the young ladies committed to their charge in every branch of education: and they trust, by a sedulous attention to the morals, health and domestic comforts of their pupils, to acquire the approbation of those who may honour them with the care of their children.

For 22 guineas (£23.10) per annum, (25 guineas (£26.25) for those over ten – years- old), the Misses Langtry undertook to instruct the children in the English language with plain and ornamental needlework. Writing and arithmetic were extras. French, drawing, dancing and music were also offered as special subjects to be taught by selected, experienced visiting masters.

The excellence or otherwise of such small establishments must have been entirely dependent upon the personal qualities of the owner or owners. Schoolmasters or mistresses who were newcomers to the town went to some pains to assure parents of prospective pupils of their fitness to undertake the education of the children of Havant. The *Hampshire Telegraph* for 31 January 1814 contains a notice to the effect that:

Havant School

The Boarding School for young gentlemen lately kept by Mr Elston will be reopened on Monday 7 February by the Reverend Matthew Barton AB late of St John's College Cambridge. Mr. Barton, being a stranger in Hampshire, begs to

refer those gentlemen who may be inclined to honour the establishment of his school in Havant with their support, for his character and qualifications, to the Reverend John Doncaster, Head Master of the Free Grammar School at Okeham, Rutland, and Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge; and to the Reverend Professor Inman of the Royal Naval College, Portsmouth.

In the same way, Miss Durrant, taking over Miss Dunn's 'Establishment for Young Ladies' in North Street in 1828, placed an announcement in the paper assuring parents that: *The school would be conducted on the most improved system*, and naming two clergymen as referees.

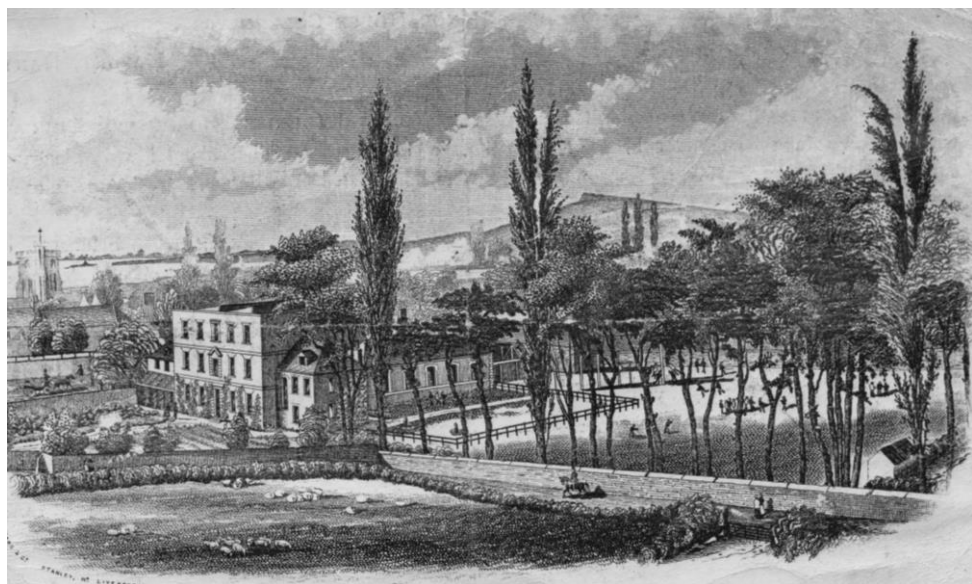
It is interesting to note how different the curriculum offered by Mr Barton of Havant House Academy is from that offered by the Misses Langtry. For £35 per annum for boys under ten, £40 for those over ten, the young gentlemen were instructed in the English, Latin and Greek classics, writing, arithmetic, and the elements of mathematics. The basic fees also covered board and lodging, washing and stationery, with the exception of printed books. French, drawing and dancing were optional extras. The wider curriculum demanded a bigger staff; teaching at the academy was done by Mr Barton 'and assistants', and the domestic arrangements were: *Carefully inspected and superintended by Mrs Barton.*

Old Havant directories record the names of many schools which appear for a few years, and then, possibly with the retirement or death of the owner, are mentioned no more. But one of the best known of Havant private schools in recent times was also one of the earliest established. The Manor House Academy, in The Pallant, was founded in 1797, and continued its existence until WW2. The building which housed the school and gave it its name has been pulled down, but the site is marked by the small estate of houses known as Manor Close.

Pigot's Directory for 1830 lists under the heading 'Academies and Schools': *Notly, William, Gentleman's Classical Boarding and Day, Manor House, Pallant.* Mr Notly announced in the *Hampshire Telegraph* that his school had a reputation for qualifying young gentlemen for the public schools, and that:

That course of mathematics pursued at the Naval and Military Colleges forms a part of the system, which also embraces those acquirements essential to Mercantile Offices.

St Faith's Church records show that seats in the north gallery of the church were reserved for Mr Notly's pupils. Presumably these were mainly for the



Circa early 1800s. The Manor House and Collegiate School with the 'Fair Field' in the foreground. This area is now Manor Close, Fairfield Terrace and the Fairfield Infant School.



Tom Spurgeon, principal, teachers and pupils at the Manor House School, 1893



The old Manor House shortly before its demolition in 1940.

oorders at the Manor House Academy. In 1830 Mr Notly announced that he would be taking six 'Parlour Boarders', and that they would each have a separate bed.

A later headmaster, Mr C Evans, stated that the aim of the school was: *To fully prepare the pupils either for the learned professions or mercantile pursuits*. A special postscript to his announcement draws the attention of parents to Mr Evans's new System of Mercantile Penmanship:

By which the Pupil in an incredibly short time is enabled to write expeditiously in the style pursued in the higher mercantile or other departments.

It seems clear from the programme of a concert given at the school on 26 December 1846 that the young gentlemen were taught English and Latin grammar and classics, as well as these more pragmatic pursuits. The list of recitations includes a passage from Virgil's *Fourth Aeniad*, Antony's *Funeral Oration over Ceasar's Body*, and a dialogue between *Dr Syntax' and Hostess*. The concert was given in the presence of the school's patron, Mr CB Longcroft, the Havant Coroner.

By the 1870s it had become the property of the Reverend Samuel Spurgeon MCP (Member of the College of Preceptors), and it was as 'Spurgeons' that the

school was affectionately known in the town throughout the next 70 years. It had a high reputation for scholarship and discipline. Boys went to it, not only from Havant, but from the surrounding villages, and would walk the three, four or five miles there and back daily.

The Reverend Samuel Spurgeon was succeeded as principal of the school in 1890 by his son Thomas. Advertisements for the school published at this time emphasise the attention given to the physical health of the pupils, as well as their academic development.

The school is pleasantly situated with a large field and covered playground. Diet is on the most liberal scale and of the best quality drill taught by a qualified instructor.

In addition to the usual academic subjects, older pupils were also offered as optional extras 'Land Surveying' and 'Use of the Globe'. The use of a school globe for the latter subject was charged at a rate of 2s. (10p) per quarter, as were pens, ink, fire and use of books.

Throughout the early years of its existence, the Manor House was a boarding and day school for boys only. However, the Spurgeon family had four daughters, and when the eldest, Aline, grew up and was trained as a teacher, she became the first principal of the Manor House School for girls. Miss Mary Spurgeon was the housekeeper for the girls' school. The large building easily accommodated the additional classes required. The tuition for boys and girls was entirely separate and their dormitories were reached by different staircases.

The Manor House School had a good academic reputation, and many well-known citizens of Havant were educated there. When the Misses Spurgeon retired the girls' school was closed and the boys' school was taken over by a new owner, Doctor HB Wallace. By 1939, the school had moved to the Old Rectory in South Street, and the name was later changed to St Nicholas. It remained as a boys' preparatory school until 1960 when again the land was sold for development and it closed. It is now the site of Juniper Square

The Manor House itself was demolished in 1940, but the school was to have one more flicker of life when, in 1958, workmen demolishing part of an old wall forming the boundary of a garden fronting Prince George Street, found a niche containing a small bottle. This bottle had been placed there 83 years before by the principal of the Manor House School, the Reverend Samuel Spurgeon, to commemorate the building of a new covered playground. The bottle contained

two rolls of parchment (probably made in Havant), on which were listed the names of the teaching staff, boarders, day-boys and domestic staff who were at the school in November 1875. Among the names listed on the parchment was that of Ada Agnes Spurgeon, granddaughter of the Reverend Samuel Spurgeon.

At the time of the finding of the parchment, Mrs Ada Bailey, as she had become, was 84-years-old, and living in Emsworth. Her daughter, Mrs Tutton, said that her mother had always known that the bottle was there, and had often spoken of it. Mrs Bailey's parents both died when she was young, and she went to live at the Manor House with her grandfather. Mrs Tutton, too, went to school at the Manor House, and later taught there.

The *Hampshire Directory* for 1867 lists a Day School in West Street kept by the Misses Turner. In June of 1979 the *Evening News* printed a note in its feature 'Looking Back', recording the death 80 years before, of Miss Emma Turner:

For about half-a-century she was one of the principals of one of the best known preparatory schools in the district, which she established with her sister.

The first Havant High School for boys and girls was also in West Street. The school was owned by Dr F Lake and was at Brocklands, a large house and grounds on the corner opposite the Prince of Wales (now an estate of flats and houses). The school was founded just before WW1 with a staff of eight, and moved during the 1920s to Denvilles House on the Emsworth Road. Brocklands was purchased by Frank Stent whose family lived there for many years. Havant High School closed upon the early retirement and death of Dr Lake.

Miss Watson's School for girls from about five years old to young ladies, was in West Street from 1861 onwards.

There were at least two resident teachers who helped to supervise the boarders and performed light household duties as family members. One of the resident teachers was a Fraulein, and the curriculum included, besides all the usual subjects, tuition in French and German. Pupils were entered for external examinations, including the RCP and were prepared for various careers including teaching.

A former pupil of the school recalled that the pupils and staff were most industrious, and that lesson times were serious and orderly. But there was a very happy, friendly atmosphere at the school, and a spirit of co-operation existed with the principals of other private schools. Miss Watson once asked a pupil to call on Mr Fairfax Spurgeon at his private school in East Street to ask for a

certain quantity of exercise books, which would be replaced when the new stock arrived, and there were many other instances of this kind of mutual help.

Miss Watson's sister, Miss Annie Watson, was principal of Elmore House School at No 21 East Street. The original boot-scraper can still be seen near the stone front doorstep.

An entry in *Kelly's Directory* for 1880 also lists a Preparatory School in East Street run by Miss Emma Watson.

One member of the staff of Miss Watson's school in West Street was Miss Bessie Simmons, who came from Portsmouth as a young teacher. Miss Simmons, with her two sisters Minnie and Louie, later opened an Academy at Waldron House, East Street, taking over from Miss Mary Ann Voke, who had run a Ladies School there. Bessie (Elizabeth Harriet) and Minnie (Marianna) were joint principals, with Louie as housekeeper. The kindergarten teacher was Miss Toms. Waldron House was renamed Kingsway House. The purpose-built kindergarten classroom can still be seen adjoining Kingsway House in Town Hall Road (originally called The Retreat). The school later moved to Ivy Lodge which is now 33 East Street.

The annual pantomimes presented by the pupils of Waldron House School at the town hall, were one of the highlights in the town's programme of entertainments. A report in the *Evening News* of 1912 describes:

A dramatic cantata by a number of Miss Simmons' pupils and some effective Tableaux vivants. 'Santa Clause in Japan' was the title of the cantata, which was very effectively staged and acted.

A resident of Havant recalls that the pupils would don the costumes for the Cantatas at the school, and process across The Retreat to the west entrance of the town hall. Passers-by never knew what nationalities they might meet: sometimes Japanese ladies in kimonos, with fans and with paper chrysanthemums in their hair, or Dutch people in full skirts or patched trousers and sabots.

The school was also noted for its Gymnasium Days. One day a week pupils would walk from the school to the new gymnasium at the entrance to the market at the top of North Street (now part of North Street Arcade). Here drill and gymnastics took place under strict supervision by Sergeant F Spencer (a retired army drill sergeant, with a terrific voice and a stiff pointed waxed moustache), who put everyone through their paces from Indian Club swinging to rope-climbing.

In the 1920s a Commercial Training Department was opened at Waldron House, and, upon the retirement of the Misses Simmons, this was transferred in 1929 to premises in West Street (at the corner of Staunton Road, now Abbeyfield House). The department became known as Waldron House Commercial Training College, with joint principals Miss W Tolman and Miss C Palmer.

Butchers Directory for 1874/75 also lists in East Street the Misses Bannisters' Ladies School at Woodford House where Empire Court is now. The Misses Bannister, Mary Ann Newnham and Sarah Louise, were daughters of Dr Bannister. Miss Sarah Bannister lived to be 102. She was a beautiful little old lady with wavy white hair and a pink complexion. It gave passers-by much pleasure to see her waving to them from her downstairs window, which was framed in immaculate lace curtains.

There were many other private schools in Havant during the last 150 years, but it is not possible to mention all of them in the space of one short article. Some, such as Brightside, have already been dealt with in the article on education; others have disappeared leaving no record of their existence but a name. Sufficient information remains, however, to give a clear idea of the valuable contribution made by the private schools to the education of the children of Havant at a time when comparatively few school places were provided by the state and church authorities.



The gymnasium in North Street was the centre building on the right-hand side. The market was located behind the wall. Circa 1915.

Index to Other Volumes

Volume 1

Electricity Supply – *WE Newberry*
Gas Supply – *Ian Watson*
Glove Making – *Ian Watson*
Havant in 1842 – *Ian Watson*
Havant Timeline
Mills
Parchment Making – *Eileen Ford*
Proposal to Solve London's Water Problems
Shipping in Chichester and Langstone Harbours
and other Langstone Matters – *Geo. Noyes*
The Longcroft Family
The Post Office
The Telephone
Water Supply
Watercress Growing – *Betty Marshall*
William Scorer
Working Life in Havant – *Pat Dann*

Volume 3

A Brief History of Local Government in the Borough of Havant –
John Reger, John Briggs
Havant Coat of Arms
Havant Fire Brigade – *Geoff. Salter*
Havant Library – *Geoff. Salter*
Havant Market
Havant Town Hall
Honorary Aldermen
Sir George Thomas Staunton Bart. 1781–1859
The Borough of Havant
The Havant Bonfire Boys – *Robert West*
The Mayor
The Final Curtain – *Geoff. Salter*
The Vestry and Local Board of Health – *Robert West*

Volume 4

Clubs and Societies – *H Simmons*
Havant Road Names – *Geoff. Salter*
Martha Burrows – Carrier
Memories of the 'Hayling Billy' Line – *Betty Marshall*
Roads and Traffic in Havant
Scouting
Sports and Pastimes
The Early Days of the Havant Choral Society
The Girl Guide Movement – *Eileen Ford*
The Railway – *AE Bowyer*

Volume 5

Banking in Havant – *R Hawkins*
Charles Lewis – Surveyor and Auctioneer – *Robert West*
George Pratt – Publican and Photographer
Hospitals
In the Workhouse, Christmas Day – *George Robert Sims*
Listed Buildings in Havant
Nurse Anderson
St John Ambulance
The British Red Cross Society
The Havant Workhouse – *Robert West*
The Rookery and Somerstown – *Robert West*
The Two World Wars – Their Impact on Havant – *George Noyes*
Walks Around Havant – *George Noyes*



The chimneys on No. 37 East Street.

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